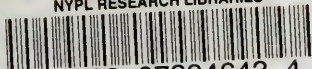


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The visit of the shepherds. [See page 76.]

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

A VOLUME OF
RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION
FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

A NEW AND REVISED ISSUE OF
THE PEEP OF DAY
EDITED BY J. E. HODDER WILLIAMS

WITH A PREFACE BY THE BISHOP OF DURHAM

“Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for
the eyes to behold the sun.”—ECCLES. xi. 7.

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PREFACE

BY THE BISHOP OF DURHAM

THE present revised edition of *The Peep of Day* has been planned and carried through with the hope of meeting a special want of our time.

For very many years Mrs. Mortimer's book has been the first Bible lesson book of innumerable English children. Its circulation has been vast, and it still commands wide acceptance. Many people now advanced in middle life—I am one of them—associate *The Peep of Day* with their earliest and tenderest memories. It was, perhaps, their mother's text-book. It seems still to speak to them with her beloved voice.

To some, however, who love *The Peep of Day* best, it has seemed advisable, on purpose that its usefulness may be the more abiding, to

PREFACE

modify it in some details. The present edition shows such modifications. No single essential has been altered. In the vast majority of cases, page after page, no change, however trifling, will be seen. Nor need the parent or teacher fear that the new Edition will vary in one item from the old in its reverence for God's written Word, and in absolute loyalty to its truth. The blessed Book is treated here as truly as ever as the Oracle of God; the "old Gospel" of salvation by grace through Christ alone pervades the lessons. But here and there a phrase is altered. This is done most often simply to adapt the book to the altered forms of speech which, in sixty years, have inevitably come in. And sometimes the change is made to avoid a statement about facts upon which later knowledge may have thrown a different light.

The Editor's hope is that in every vital respect *The Peep of Day*, in its new form, will be found to be precisely the old friend. Its dialect alone, and even that very little and very seldom, may be altered to meet the children

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PREFACE

of our day. But its spirit, its message, its purpose, are absolutely as they were.

God's blessing rest upon the use of it, for young hearts and minds, as it has rested hitherto.

HANDLEY DUNELM.

FROM THE PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL
EDITION OF *THE PEEP OF DAY*

THERE are few who have attempted by means of books to prepare the infant mind for the reading of the Scriptures, who have not experienced the want of a suitable book by way of a first step.

It was under a feeling of the need of this preparation that the writer of the following pages has ventured to publish her instructions of an infant class of little children ; having been induced, in the first instance, to write them down as soon as given, with a view to the governess recapitulating them during her absence of some months.

It may appear that there are many books of a similar nature already published, but such as have met the writer's eye have rather been

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PREFACE

commentaries on the Scriptures, than preparations for their perusal.

It is too common to defer religious instruction in schools till the child can read in the Testament. *One quarter of an hour*, daily, devoted to instruction by word of mouth, would prepare the child for comprehending the meaning of the Testament when able to read; whereas now it has to combat at once with the difficulties of reading, and the far greater difficulties of the subject it reads of.

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As it is evident that the greatest accuracy is essential in the foundation of an edifice, the writer has endeavoured to prove every statement either by the notes or by the references prefixed to each chapter, both of which are intended solely for the use of the teacher.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

LESSON I

OF THE BODY

MY dear little children ;—You have seen the sun in the sky. Who put the sun in the sky ?—God.

Can you reach up so high ?—No.

Who holds up the sun that it does not fall ?¹
—It is God.

God lives in heaven ; heaven is much higher than the sun.²

Can you see God ?—No.

Yet He can see you, for God sees everything.³

¹ "Upholding all things by the word of His power."—Heb. i. 3.

² "He ascended up far above all heavens."—Eph. iv. 10.

³ "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."—Prov. xv. 3.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

God made everything at first, and God takes care of everything.¹ God made the sun, and God makes it shine every day. God made the rain. God lets it pour down.² God made the wind, and He makes it blow.³ God made you, my little child, and God keeps you alive.⁴

You have a little body : from your head down to your feet, I call your body.

Your little body is alive. Are all things alive ?
—No.

The stones are not alive. But you are not like the stones. Feel the stones. How cold they are ! Your little body is warm. Who makes it warm ?—God.

Though God lives in heaven, He looks down from heaven, and keeps you alive.⁵

Put your hand before your mouth. What do

¹ "O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast."—Ps. xxxvi. 6.

² Job xxxviii. 26, 27.

³ "He causeth His wind to blow."—Ps. cxlvii. 18.

⁴ "In Him we live, and move, and have our being."—Acts xvii. 28.

⁵ "Thy visitation hath preserved my spirit."—Job x. 12.

OF THE BODY

you feel coming out of your mouth?—It is your breath. You breathe every moment. When you are asleep, you breathe. You cannot help breathing. But who gives you breath? ¹—It is God.

God does everything. God gave you this little body, and He makes it live, and move, and breathe. There are bones in your body. God has made them strong and hard.² There are some bones for your arms, and some bones for your legs. There is a bone for your back, and more bones for your sides.

God has covered your bones with flesh. Your flesh is soft and warm.

In your flesh there is blood. God has put skin outside,³ and this covers your flesh and blood like a coat.

Now all these things, the bones and flesh and blood and skin, are called your body. How kind

¹ “He that giveth breath unto the people that are upon it (*the earth*).”—Is. xlii. 5.

² “Thou hast fenced me with bones.”—Job x. 11.

³ “Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh.”—Job x. 11.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

of God it was to make such a wonderful body for you to live in.¹

Will your bones break?—Yes, they would, if you were to fall down from a high place, or if a cart were to go over them.

If you were to be very ill, your flesh would waste away, and you would have scarcely anything left but skin and bones.

Did you ever see a child who had been ill a very long while?—I have seen a poor little baby that had been very ill. It had not round cheeks like yours, and a fat arm like this. The baby's flesh was almost gone, and its little bones were only covered with skin. How good God has been to keep you strong and well.

Can you keep your own body from being ill, and from getting hurt?

You should try not to hurt yourself, for God wants you to take great care of the body He has given you, but God only can keep your body from all harm, from fire and water, from wounds

¹ "I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."—Ps. cxxxix. 14.

OF THE BODY

nd bruises, and all kinds of sickness.¹ Kneel
own and say to God, "Dear Lord, keep my
ttle body from getting hurt." God will hear
ou, and He will always take care of you.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON I

Why does the sun not fall from the sky?
Is your body like a stone?
Why do you breathe?
What are the four things that are called your body?
How might your body be hurt?
Who can keep it from being hurt?

¹ "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil."—
s. cxxi. 7.

LESSON II

OF A MOTHER'S CARE

I HAVE told you, my darling, about your little body. Was your body always as big as it is now?—No. Once it was very small indeed.

What were you called when your body was very small?—A baby.

Now you can take a little care of yourself, but then you could do nothing for yourself at all. Can babies walk, or talk, or feed themselves, or dress themselves?—You know they cannot.

But God sent you to some one who took great care of you when you were a baby.

Who was it?

Your dear mother, she took care of you then. She nursed you in her arms, and fed you, and washed you, and dressed you, and took you out.

OF A MOTHER'S CARE

Who fed me from her gentle breast,
And hush'd me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?
My Mother.

When sleep forsook my open eye,
Who was it sung sweet hush-a-by,
And rock'd me that I should not cry?
My Mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate, and kind to thee,
Who wast so very kind to me,
My Mother?

Do you love your mother?—Why, of course you do.

I know you do. But who gave you a mother?
—It was God who sent you to a kind mother.

A little while ago there was no such little creature as you.¹ Then God made your little body, and He sent you to your mother, who loved you as soon as she saw you. It was God

¹ "We are of yesterday."—Job viii. 9.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

who made your mother love you so much,¹ and made her so kind to you.

Your kind mother dressed your little body in neat clothes, and laid you in a cradle. When you cried, she gave you food, and hushed you to sleep in her arms. She showed you pretty things to make you smile. She held you up and showed you how to move your feet. She taught you to speak, and she often kissed you, and called you sweet names.

Can your mother keep you alive?—No.

She can feed you, but she cannot make your breath go on.

God thinks of you every minute of the day.² If He were to forget you for a moment your breath would stop.

Do you ever thank your mother for her kindness? I am sure you do. You often say,

¹ "God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince."—Dan. i. 9.

² "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."—St. Luke xii. 6, 7.

OF A MOTHER'S CARE

“Thank you,” and sometimes you put your arms round her neck and say, “I do love you so much, dear mother.” Will you not thank God, who gave you a mother, and keeps you alive? You should kneel down when you speak to God; then you should say, “O God, how good You have been to me! I thank You, and love You.”

Does God hear little children when they speak to Him?—Yes, God loves to listen to you; He is very pleased when you thank Him for His goodness to you.¹

QUESTIONS ON LESSON II

What was it your mother did for you when you were a baby?

Does your mother make you breathe, and keep you alive?

Why did God give you a mother?

What should you say to God for giving you a mother?

¹ “I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.”—Ps. lxix. 30, 31.

LESSON III

OF A FATHER'S CARE

WHO is it that dresses you and feeds you?
—Your dear mother.

But how does your mother get money to buy the clothes, and the food?—Father brings it home.

How does your father get money?—He works all day long.

You have sometimes seen your father in the evening so tired after his work. He has been working for your mother and for you, so that you may have all the good things that money can buy. You must always be good to your father, for he is always thinking of you, even when he is away from home.

Who made your father love you from the time you were a tiny baby?—It was God.

OF A FATHER'S CARE

You should thank God for giving you such a kind father, and pray to God to keep him alive. In the morning you can say to God, "Pray let father come home this evening safe."

But if God were to let your father die, you would still have one father left. Whom do I mean? What do you say in your prayer?—"Our Father, who art in heaven."

Yes, you have a Father in heaven, besides the father you have at home, for God is your Father.¹ He is the Father of every little child, and though He has so many, many children, He knows and loves and cares for each one.

Can your heavenly Father die?—No, never.

Does He love you?—Yes.

He loves you even more than your other father does.² He is always thinking of you. He is always looking at you. He would like

¹ "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God."—Acts xvii. 29.

² "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."—Ps. xxvii. 10.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

you to come and live with Him in heaven some day.

Let us think of the things which your heavenly Father has given to you. Let us count them over.

1. A Father to work for you.
2. A Mother to take care of you.
3. A house to live in.
4. A bed to sleep in.
5. Fire to warm you.
6. Clothes to wear.
7. Food to eat.
8. Breath every moment.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON III

What is it your father does to get money ?
Why does he buy things for you with his money ?
Have you a Father that cannot die ?

LESSON IV

OF THE SOUL

HAS God been kind to dogs? Has He given them bodies?—Yes.

Have they bones, and flesh, and blood, and skin?—Yes.

The dog has a body as well as you. Is the dog's body like yours?—No.

How many legs have you?—Two.

How many legs has the dog?—Four.

Have you got arms?—Yes, two.

Has the dog got arms?—No, it has got no arms, or hands. But the dog has legs and paws instead. Your skin is smooth, but the dog's is covered with hair.

Is the cat's body like yours?—No; it is covered with fur.

Is a chicken's body like yours? How many legs has the chicken?—Two.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

And so have you. But are its legs like yours?—No, the chicken has very thin legs, and it has claws, instead of feet.

Have you feathers on your skin? Have you wings? Is your mouth like a chicken's beak? Has the chicken any teeth?—No; the chicken's body is not at all like yours. Yet the chicken has a body—for it has flesh, and bones, and blood, and skin.

Has a fly got a body?—Yes, it has a black body, and six black legs, and two wings like glass. Its body is not at all like yours.

Who gave bodies to dogs, horses, chickens, and flies? Who keeps them alive?

God thinks of all these creatures every moment.¹

Can a dog thank God?—No; dogs and horses, sheep and cows, cannot thank God.

Why cannot they thank God? Is it because they cannot talk?—That is not the reason.

The reason is they cannot think of God. They

¹ "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?"—St. Luke xii. 6.

OF THE SOUL

never heard of God. They cannot understand about God.¹

Why not?—Because they have no *souls*, or spirits, like yours.

Have you got a soul?—Yes, in your body there is a soul which will never die. Your soul can think of God.

When God made your body, He put your soul inside. When God made the dogs, He put no soul like yours inside their bodies, and they cannot think of God.

Can I see your soul?—No ; I cannot see it. No one can see it, but God.² He knows what you are thinking of now.

Which is best, your soul or your body?—Your soul is a great deal the best. Why is your soul the best?—Your body can die, but your soul cannot die.³

¹ “Be ye not as the horse or as the mule, which have no understanding.”—Ps. xxxii. 9.

² “Thou, even Thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men.”—1 Kings viii. 39.

³ “What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”—St. Matt. xvi. 26.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

Shall I tell you what your body is made of?—Of dust. God made the dust into flesh and blood.

What is your soul made of?—Your soul, or spirit, is made of the breath of God.¹

That little dog will die some day.² The dog will be quite gone, when its body is dead. But when your body dies, your soul will be alive, and you will not be quite gone. Even a tiny baby has a soul. Your soul will go up to God who made it.³

Will you not thank God for giving you a spirit? Will you not ask Him to take your spirit to live with Him when your body dies?⁴ Say to God, "Pray, take my spirit to live with Thee when my body dies and turns into dust."

¹ "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."—Gen. ii. 7.

² "The beasts that perish."—Ps. xlix. 20.

³ "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"—Eccles. iii. 21.

⁴ "We are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."—2 Cor. v. 8.

OF THE SOUL

QUESTIONS ON LESSON IV

What other things have bodies, as well as you ?

Are their bodies like yours ?

What have you besides a body ?

Why cannot dogs and horses think of God ?

Is your soul better than your body ? Why ?

What is your body made of ?

What is your soul made of ?

Where do you hope that your soul will go ?

LESSON V

OF THE GOOD ANGELS

YOU know that God lives in heaven. He sits on a great white throne.¹ He has no body, for He is a spirit.²

Does He live in heaven alone?—No; angels stand all round His throne.³

What are angels?—Angels are spirits.⁴ You cannot see them any more than you can see your own spirit.

They are bright like the sun,⁵ but they are

¹ "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it."—Rev. xx. 11.

² "God is a Spirit."—St. John iv. 24.

³ "All the angels stood round about the throne."—Rev. vii. 11.

⁴ "Who maketh His angels spirits."—Ps. civ. 4.

⁵ "His countenance was like lightning."—St. Matt. xxviii. 3.

OF THE GOOD ANGELS

not so bright as God, for He is brighter than the sun.¹ The angels are always looking at God,² and it is God that makes them shine so bright.

They sing sweet songs about God.³ They say, "How good God is! how wise! how great!"

There is no night in heaven,⁴ for the angels are never tired of singing, and they never wish to sleep.⁵ They are never ill, and they will never die.

They never weep; there are no tears upon

¹ "I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun."—Acts xxvi. 13.

² "Their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven."—St. Matt. xviii. 10.

³ "I heard the voice of many angels, saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb," etc. "And every creature which is in heaven," etc., "heard I, saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."—Rev. v. 11, 12, 13.

⁴ "There shall be no night there."—Rev. xxii. 5.

⁵ "They rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty."—Rev. iv. 8. Angels "excel in strength."—Ps. ciii. 20.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

their cheeks, but sweet smiles, for angels are always happy.¹

If the angels were naughty, they would be unhappy. Naughtiness always makes people unhappy. The angels are always good.² They love God very much, and mind all He says.³

They have wings,⁴ and can fly very quickly.⁵ God sends them down here to take care of us.⁶

Should you like the angels to be near you at night? Do you know this pretty verse of a hymn—

¹ "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."—Rev. xxi. 4.

² "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell."—2 Pet. ii. 4.

³ "Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure."—Ps. ciii. 21.

⁴ "Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings."—Isa. vi. 2.

⁵ "The man Gabriel being caused to fly swiftly."—Dan. ix. 21.

⁶ "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"—Heb. i. 14.

OF THE GOOD ANGELS

“I lay my body down to sleep,
Let angels guard my head,
And through the hours of darkness keep
Their watch around my bed”?

You must ask God to send the angels, for they never go, except when God sends them.¹

God is their Father.² They have not two fathers, as you have. The angels are the children of God, and live in God's house in heaven. When you mind what your father tells you, then you are like the angels who mind God.

The angels love us very much. They wish us to grow good, and to come to live with them in heaven.³ When a child is sorry for its

¹ “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”—St. Matt. xxvi. 53.

² “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”—Job xxxviii. 4, 7.

³ “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven.”—St. Matt. xviii. 10.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

naughtiness and prays to God to forgive it, the angels are so pleased.¹

When a little child, who loves God, falls ill, and is going to die, God says to the angels, "Go and fetch that little child's soul up to heaven."² Then the angels fly down, the dear little one shuts its eyes, it lays its head on its mother's bosom, its breath stops;—the child is dead. Where is its soul?—The angels are carrying it up to heaven.

How happy the child is now! Its pain is over; it is grown quite good;³ it is bright like an angel.⁴ It holds a harp in its hand, and begins to sing a sweet song of praise to God.⁵ Its little body turns into dust, but one day God will make its body alive again.

¹ "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."—St. Luke xv. 10.

² "And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom."—St. Luke xvi. 22.

³ "The spirits of just men made perfect."—Heb. xii. 23.

⁴ "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."—St. Matt. xiii. 43.

⁵ "I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. These were redeemed from among men."—Rev. xiv. 2, 4.

OF THE GOOD ANGELS

Dear children, will you pray to God to send His angels to fetch your soul when you die ?

QUESTIONS ON LESSON V

Who live with God in heaven ?

What are the angels always doing ?

Why are they always happy ?

Why do angels come down here ?

What is it the angels do for children who love God, when they die ?

LESSON VI

OF THE WICKED ANGELS

WHEN did God begin to live in heaven?—
God always lived in heaven.¹

Once there was no such little child as you, but there always was God.

Once there was no sun, but there always was God.

Once there were no angels,² but there always was God.

No one made God; God was the first of all things, and God made everything.

A very long while ago God made the angels. How many angels did He make?—No one could

¹ "From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God."—Ps. xc. 2.

² "By Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible."—Col. i. 16.

OF THE WICKED ANGELS

tell how many. There were more than could be counted.¹ They were all good and happy.

But some of the angels grew bad. They left off loving God, and grew proud and disobedient.

Would God let them stay in heaven after they were bad?—No; He cast them out into a dark and dreadful place.²

One of these bad angels was called Satan. He is the chief, or prince, of the bad angels. He is called the devil.³ The devil is very wicked,⁴ and hates God.

He can never go back to heaven again,⁵ but

¹ “An innumerable company of angels.”—Heb. xii. 22.

² “The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness, unto the judgment of the great day.”—Jude 6.

³ “That old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”—Rev. xii. 9.

⁴ “The prince of the power of the air.”—Eph. ii. 2.

⁵ “The devil sinneth from the beginning.”—1 John iii 8.

⁶ “And the angels which kept not their first estate He hath reserved in everlasting chains.”—Jude 6.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

he comes here where we live,¹ and he brings the other devils with him.²

We cannot see Satan, because he is a spirit, but he is always walking about, and trying to make people naughty.³

Satan loves evil; he does not wish to be good. It pleases Satan to see people in pain and in tears,⁴ but it pleases him best to see them naughty, because then he thinks that they will come and live with him in his dark place. And so he tries to make us do wicked things, and to keep us from praying to God.⁵

¹ "Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."—Job i. 7.

² (*Satan*) "was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."—Rev. xii. 9.

³ "The spirit which now worketh in the children of disobedience."—Eph. ii. 2.

⁴ "In mine adversity they rejoiced."—Ps. xxxv. 15. "Thou lovest evil more than good."—Ps. lii. 3. "He loved cursing."—Ps. cix. 17. All that is said of the wicked applies in a higher degree to Satan, as the author of sin, for Christ said to the wicked, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do."—St. John viii. 44.

⁵ "Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that

OF THE WICKED ANGELS

I cannot tell you how very bad Satan is. He is very cruel, for he likes to give pain.¹ He is a liar, and teaches people to tell lies.² He is proud,³ and wishes people to mind him more than God. He is envious, and cannot bear to see people happy.⁴

The devil hopes very much that you will come and live with him when you die. He knows that if you are bad like him, you will live with him. So he tries to make you like himself. When you are in a passion, you are like the devil. When you say, "I don't care," you are like the devil. When you are not good it is because the devil is trying to make you like him.

he may sift you as wheat."—St. Luke xxii. 31. "For if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."—2 Cor. iv. 3, 4.

¹ Satan is called "a roaring lion."—1 Pet. v. 8. His "fiery darts" are spoken of, Eph. vi. 16.

² "He is a liar, and the father of it."—St. John viii. 44.

³ "All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me."—St. Matt. iv. 9.

⁴ This is proved by Satan having ruined man, and by his continuing to tempt him.

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Can God keep you from being hurt by the devil?—Yes; He can, for God is a great deal stronger than Satan.¹ Besides this, God is always near you, for God is everywhere. God is always with you; He is before you, and behind you, and on every side of you: He is about your bed when you sleep, and about your path when you walk.² Therefore you need not be afraid of Satan; only ask God to help you, and He will do so.

Satan is much stronger than you are;³ but God is stronger than all. If anybody were to come to hurt you when you were alone, you would be frightened; but if you saw your father coming, you would run to him, and you would not be frightened any more. Now God is your Father, He can keep Satan from hurting you. Pray to Him and say: "Oh, dear Father, keep

¹ "O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord, like unto Thee?"—Ps. lxxxix. 8.

² "Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Thou hast beset me behind and before."—Ps. cxxxix. 3, 5.

³ "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers."—Eph. vi. 12.

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me from being wicked like the devil. Keep me from listening when he speaks to me, help me to fight against him whenever he comes near me.”¹

QUESTIONS ON LESSON VI

Did the angels always live in heaven ?

Who has lived always ?

Why did God cast some of the angels out of heaven ?

What is the name of the prince of the bad angels ?

Why does Satan walk about here ?

Can you keep yourselves from Satan ?

¹ “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”—Jas. iv. 7.
One of the directions for withstanding the wiles of the devil is, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication.”
—Eph. vi. 18.

LESSON VII

THE WORLD.—PART I

Gen. i. 1-10.

THIS large place we live in is called the world. It is very beautiful. If we look up, we see the blue sky ; if we look down, we see the green grass. The sky is like a curtain spread over our heads, the grass like a carpet under our feet, and the bright sun is like a great lamp to give us light. It was very kind of God to make such a beautiful world, and to let us live in it.

God was in heaven, and all His bright angels round Him, when He began to make the world.¹

God's Son was with Him—for God always had

¹ "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? when all the sons of God shouted for joy?"—Job xxxviii. 4, 7.

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a Son¹ just like Himself.² His Son's name is Jesus Christ. He is as good and great as God His Father. The Father and the Son are God : They always lived together, and they love each other exceedingly.³ The Father and the Son are one God, and They made the world.⁴

How did God make the world ?—By speaking. First of all, God made the light. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. No one can make things by speaking but God ; God made things of nothing. He spoke, and the light came.⁵

Then God made the air. You cannot see the

¹ "I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When He appointed the foundations of the earth, then I was by Him."—Prov. viii. 23, 29, 30.

² "The express image of His person."—Heb. i. 3.

³ "I was daily His delight."—Prov. viii. 30. "But that the world may know that I love the Father."—St. John xiv. 31.

⁴ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him."—St. John i. 1, 3.

⁵ "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things that do appear."—Heb. xi. 3.

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air, but you can feel it. The air is everywhere. You can sometimes hear the noise it makes, for you hear the wind blow, and the wind is air.

Next God put some water up very high. The clouds are full of water, and sometimes the water comes down, and we call it rain.

God made a large deep place and filled it with water. God spoke to the water, and it rushed into the deep place. God called this water the sea.¹

The sea is very large, and it is always moving up and down, and tossing about. When the wind blows hard, the sea makes a loud noise and roars. But it cannot get out of the large deep place in which God has put it ; for God said, "Stay there."²

But God made some dry land for us to walk

¹ "The waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled : they go down by the valleys unto the place which Thou hast founded for them."—Ps. civ. 6-8.

² "(When I) brake up for it My decreed place, and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further ; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."—Job xxxviii. 10, 11.

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upon : we call it ground. We could not walk upon the sea, nor build houses on the sea : but the ground is hard, and firm, and dry.

'Twas God who made this world so fair,
The shining sun, the sky, the air ;
'Twas God who made the sea, the ground,
And all the things I see around.

When He began the world to make,
These were the mighty words He spake :
" Let there be light." His voice was heard,
And the obedient light appeared.

The angels saw the light arise,
And with their praises filled the skies.
" How great our God ! How wise ! How strong !"
Such is their never-ending song.

Now I have told you of five things that God made :

1. The light.
2. The air.
3. The clouds.
4. The sea.
5. The dry land.

Let us always praise God for making such a large and beautiful world.

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QUESTIONS ON LESSON VII

- What is this place that we live in called ?
- Who was always in heaven with God ?
- Is Jesus Christ the same as God ?
- How did God make the world ?
- What was the first thing God made ?
- What is that you can feel, but cannot see ?
- What is the water in the sky called ?
- What is the name of the large deep place full of water ?
- What do we walk upon ?
- What are the first five things that God made ?

LESSON VIII

THE WORLD.—PART II

Gen. i. 11-19.

WHEN God made the dry land, there was nothing on it; it was bare. So God spake, and things grew out of the ground.

Trees came out of it; they were covered with green leaves of different shapes. Some were called oak trees, and some were called elm trees, and some beech trees. And some trees bore nice fruit, such as plum trees, apple trees, orange trees, and fig trees.

Vegetables grew out of the earth; potatoes and beans, cabbages and lettuce: they are called vegetables.

Corn came out of it. Some corn is called wheat, and some corn is called barley, and some

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is called oats. The ears of corn bend down when they are ripe, and look yellow like gold.

God made the soft green grass to spring up, and flowers to grow among the grass—flowers of all colours, and of sweetest smell—the yellow butter-cup, the white lily, the violet, and the rose, the most beautiful of all flowers.

I have told you of five sorts of things that grew out of the earth :

1. Trees.
2. Vegetables.
3. Corn.
4. Grass.
5. Flowers.

The world looked very beautiful when it was covered with grass and trees. But only God and the angels saw its beauty.

Afterwards God placed the sun in the sky, and bade it shine all day, and go from one end of the world to the other.¹ God made the moon

¹ God demands of Job, "Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days ; and caused the dayspring to know his place ?"—Job xxxviii. 12.

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to shine at night, and He put the stars in the sky.

You never saw anything so bright as the sun. It is very large indeed, only it looks small, because it is a great way off. It cannot fall, for God holds it up.¹ God makes it move across the sky. Did you ever hear this pretty verse about the sun—

“My God, who makes the sun to know
His proper hour to rise ;
And to give light to all below,
Doth send him round the skies” ?

The moon does not shine as brightly as the sun, for God lets it be dark at night, that we may rest, and sleep soundly.²

Who could count the stars ?—No one but God.³

¹ “Upholding all things by the word of His power.”—Heb. i. 3.

² “He appointed the moon for seasons ; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.”—Ps. civ. 19, 20, 23.

³ “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered.”—Jer. xxxiii. 22.

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He knows their names and their number too.¹
When we look at the moon and stars, let us think
“how great God is! Yet He cares for the little
birds, and loves little children.”²

I saw the glorious sun arise
From yonder mountain grey;
And as he travelled through the skies,
The darkness went away;
And all around me was so bright,
I wished it would be always light.

But when his shining course was done,
The gentle moon drew nigh,
And stars came twinkling, one by one,
Upon the shady sky.
Who made the sun to shine so far,
The moon, and every twinkling star?

'Twas God, my child, who made them all,
By His almighty skill;
He keeps them, that they do not fall,
And guides them as He will:
That glorious God, who lives afar,
In heaven, beyond the highest star.

¹ “Behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might.”—Isa. xl. 26.

² “When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?”—Ps. viii. 3, 4.

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QUESTIONS ON LESSON VIII

How many different sorts of things grow out of the ground?

Tell me the names of some trees—of some vegetables—of some kinds of corn—of some flowers.

What bright things did God put in the sky?

How many stars are there?

LESSON IX

THE WORLD.—PART III

Gen. i. 20–25.

GOD had made a great many things; but none of these things were alive. At last He made some living things. He spoke, and the water was filled with fishes, more than could be counted.

Some were very small, and some were very large.¹ Have you heard of the great whale? It is the biggest creature that lives.² Fishes

¹ "This great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts."—Ps. civ. 25.

² Some have been taken of 100 feet long, and almost as much in circumference; though now, in consequence of the increased activity of the fishery, whales seldom live long enough to attain their full growth.—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, Art. "Cetology."

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are cold, and they have no feet, and they cannot sing, nor speak.

God made some creatures, more beautiful than fish, to fly in the air. These were the birds—they perched upon the trees, and sang among the branches.¹

Birds have wings and are covered with feathers of all colours. The robin has a red breast; the goldfinch has some yellow feathers; and the jay some blue ones: but the peacock is the most beautiful of birds.² It has a little tuft upon its head, and a long train, that sweeps behind; sometimes it spreads out its feathers, and they look like a large fan. The thrush, the blackbird, and the linnet, can sing sweetly; but there is one bird that can sing more sweetly still—it is the nightingale. At night, when all the other birds have left off singing, the nightingale may be heard in the woods.

¹ “The fowls of the heaven, which sing among the branches.”—Ps. civ. 12.

² “Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks?”—Job xxxix. 13.

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Some birds swim upon the water; such as geese, and ducks, and the beautiful swan with its long neck, and its feathers like the snow.

Some birds are very tall. The ostrich is as tall as a man. It cannot fly like other birds, but it can run very fast indeed.

The eagle builds its nest in a very high place.¹ Its wings are very strong, and it can fly as high as the clouds.²

The gentlest of the birds is the dove. It cannot sing, but it sits alone, and moans softly, as if it was sad.³

I cannot tell you the names of all the birds, but you can think of the names of some other kinds.

There is another sort of living creature called

¹ "Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?"—Job xxxix. 27.

² "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles."—Isa. xl. 31.

³ "They that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity."—Ezek. vii. 16.

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insects. Insects are small, and creep upon the earth ; such as ants. Some insects can fly also ; such as bees, and butterflies. The bee sucks the juice of flowers, and makes wax and honey. How gay are the wings of the butterfly ! they are covered with little feathers, too small to be seen.

At last God made the beasts. Beasts walk upon the earth : most of them have four legs. You know the names of a great many beasts. Sheep and cows, dogs and cats, are beasts. But there are many other sorts besides. The squirrel that jumps from bough to bough, the rabbit that lives in a hole under ground, and the goat that climbs on the hills ; the stag with his beautiful horns, the lion with his yellow hair, the tiger whose skin is marked with stripes. The elephant is the largest of the beasts, the lion is the strongest, the dog is the most sensible, the stag is the most beautiful, but the lamb is the gentlest. The dove is the gentlest of the birds, and the lamb is the gentlest of the beasts.

Now God had filled the world with living

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creatures, and they were all good: even lions and tigers were good and harmless. I have told you of four sorts of living creatures:

1. Fishes.
2. Birds.
3. Insects.
4. Beasts.

All these creatures have bodies, but they have not souls like you. They can move and breathe. God feeds them every day and keeps them alive.¹ The Lord is good to them all.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON IX

How many sorts of living things did God make?

Tell me the names of some fishes—of some birds—of some insects—of some beasts.

¹ "These wait all upon Thee; that Thou mayest give them their meat in due season."—Ps. civ. 27.

LESSON X

ADAM AND EVE

Gen. i. 26, to the end of chap. ii.

NOW I shall tell you of the last thing God made.

God took some of the dust of the ground, and made the body of a man ; then He breathed on it, and gave it a soul ; so the man could understand and think about God. Adam was good like God.¹ Adam loved God very much.

God put him in a very pretty garden, full of trees covered with fruit. This garden was called the garden of Eden. God showed Adam all the beasts and birds, and let Adam give them what names he pleased. He said to Adam,

¹ " God hath made man upright."—Eccles. vii. 29.

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“I give you all the fishes, and insects, and birds, and beasts ; you are their master.” So Adam was king over all things on the earth.

God said to Adam, “ You may eat of the fruit that grows on the trees in the garden.” Still God did not let him be idle, but told him to take care of the garden.

You see how very kind God was to Adam.

But Adam had no friend to be with him ; for the beasts and birds could not talk to Adam. Then God said, He would make a woman to be a friend to Adam. So God made Adam fall fast asleep, and when he awoke he saw his new friend and companion. He knew that she was made of his flesh and bones, and he loved her very much. Her name was Eve.

You have heard of all the things God made. They were all beautiful : and all the living things were quite happy : there was no pain, and no sighing, and no sin in all the world.

God had been six days in making the world, and when He had finished it, He rested, and made no more things.

ADAM AND EVE

The angels saw the world that God had made : they were pleased and sang a sweet song of praise to God.¹ Jesus Christ the Son of God was pleased, for He loved Adam and Eve.²

How did I know about the world being made ? It is written in the Bible, which is God's own book.

Let us count over all the things that God made :

1. Light.
2. Air.
3. Clouds.
4. Sea.
5. Dry land.
6. Things that grow out of the earth.
7. Sun, moon, and stars.
8. Living creatures.

¹ "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth ? When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy ?"—Job xxxviii. 4, 7.

² "Rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth ; and My delights were with the sons of men."—Prov. viii. 31.

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QUESTIONS ON LESSON X

What was the last thing God made ?

How did God make Adam ?

Where did God put Adam ?

What did God give him ?

Why did God make Eve ?

Tell me the names of the things God made.

LESSON XI

THE FIRST SIN

Gen. iii.

ADAM and Eve were very happy in the garden of Eden. They talked to each other, and walked together, and they never quarrelled, and they praised God for all His kindness to them.

God used to talk with them sometimes. They were pleased to hear His voice, for they were not afraid of Him.

There was one thing that God had told them not to do.'

There was a tree in the middle of the garden. Some beautiful fruit grew upon it ; but God said to Adam and Eve, "You must not eat of the fruit of that tree ; for if you eat of it, you shall die."

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Adam and Eve liked to obey God, and they did not wish to eat of this fruit.

You know that the wicked angel, Satan, hates God, and he hated Adam and Eve.¹ He wished to make them disobey God, just as now he tries to make little children disobey God. So he thought he would ask them to eat of that fruit. He went into the garden, and looked like a serpent.² He saw Eve alone near the tree. He said to her, "Why do you not eat of this nice fruit?"

Eve answered, "No, I will not; we must not eat of that fruit. If we do, God has said we shall die." Then the serpent said, "You shall not die; that fruit will make you wise."

Eve looked at the fruit, and thought it looked nice and good, and she picked some and ate it; and she gave some to Adam, and he ate it.

¹ "Love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."—1 John iv. 7.

² "That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."—Rev. xii. 9.

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It was very wicked of them to eat this fruit. They had not obeyed God who had been so good to them. They did not love God, for if they had loved Him they would not have listened to Satan.¹

Soon they heard God speaking in the garden. They were frightened, for they knew they had done what He had told them not to do, and they went and hid themselves among the trees. But God saw them, for He can see everywhere.

And God said, "Adam, where art thou?" So Adam and Eve came from under the trees.

God said to Adam, "Have you eaten the fruit that I told you not to eat?"

And Adam said, "It was this woman who asked me to eat some."

And God said to Eve, "What is this that thou hast done?"

And Eve said, "The serpent asked me to eat."

God was very angry with the serpent, and said he should be punished for ever and ever.

God said to Adam and Eve, "You shall die."

¹ "By one man's disobedience many were made sinners."
—Rom. v. 19.

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I made your bodies of dust, and they will turn to dust again.”

God would not let them stay in the sweet garden, but He sent an angel with a sword of fire, and He drove them out.

And the angel stood before the gate with his sword, so that they could never come again into the garden.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XI

What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do ?

Who asked Eve to eat the fruit ?

Why did he ask her ?

What lie did the serpent tell to Eve ?

Were Adam and Eve good after they had eaten the fruit ?

Why did they hide themselves under the trees ?

What did God say should be done to Adam and Eve to punish them ?

Who drove them out of the garden ?

LESSON XII

THE SON OF GOD

Gen. iii. 14-24.

ARE you not very sorry to hear that Adam and Eve were turned out of the garden?

It was not so pleasant outside of the garden. A great many weeds and thistles grew there; but in the garden were only pretty flowers and sweet fruits.

Adam was forced to dig the ground till he was hot and tired, for he could not always find fruit upon the trees.

Now Adam felt pain in his body sometimes; and his hair became grey, and at last he was quite old.

Eve was very often ill and weak, and tears ran down her cheeks. Poor Adam and Eve!

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if they had obeyed God, they would have been happy for ever.

Adam and Eve knew that they must die at last. God gave them some little children, and Adam and Eve knew that their children must die too. God had told them that their bodies were made of dust, and that they must turn to dust again.

But there was something sadder still. They had grown wicked. They did not love praising God as they once had done, but they liked doing many wicked things.¹ They were grown like Satan, so Satan hoped that when their bodies were put into the ground, their spirits would be with him; for Satan knew that the wicked could not live with God in heaven.²

¹ "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."—Rom. viii. 7.

² "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you."—St. Luke xxii. 31.

The constant efforts of Satan to tempt men to commit sin, show that he is aware of the destructive nature of sin, as it is undeniable that he desires to destroy man.

THE SON OF GOD

And they would have gone to hell, where Satan dwells, and all their children too, had not God taken pity upon them. God, who is very kind, had found out a way to save them.

God had said to His Son a long, long while before, "Adam and Eve, and all their children must go to hell for their wickedness, unless you die instead of them.¹ My beloved Son, I will send you; you shall have a body; you shall go and live in the world, and you shall obey Me, and you shall die for Adam and his children, that they may be saved."²

The Son said to His Father, "I will go; I will do all that You desire Me to do. It is My delight to obey You."³

So the Son promised that He would die for Adam and Eve, and for their children.

¹ "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."—1 John iv. 10. "Who verily was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world."—1 Pet. i. 20.

² "I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love."—St. John xv. 10.

³ "Then said I, Lo, I come: I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart."—Ps. xl. 7, 8.

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How kind it was of the Father to spare His dear Son, whom He loved so very much!¹ How kind it was of the Son to leave His throne of light, His bright angels, and His dear Father, and to take a body and to die!²

You know that we are some of Adam's children's children, and we, too, often disobey God. It was for us that Jesus came to die.³ We ought to love the Father, and the Son, because they had pity on us.

Let us praise God with the angels,⁴ and say,—

“We thank Thee, O Father, for Thy tender love, in giving up Thine only Son.

“We thank Thee, O Son, for Thy tender love, in coming down to bleed and die.”

¹ “Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.”—St. John xvii. 24.

² “The glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”—St. John xvii. 5.

³ “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”—1 Cor. xv. 22.

⁴ “I heard the voice of many angels, saying, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain. And every creature heard I saying, Blessing and honour, and glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”—Rev. v. 11-14.

THE SON OF GOD

The Father waited a long while before He sent his Son down to be a man.

All the time the Son waited in heaven, He thought of what He had promised to do;¹ but He would not go down to earth and become a man till His Father pleased to send Him.²

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XII

Were Adam and Eve happy after they had eaten the fruit?

Why not?

Who took pity upon them?

What did God desire His Son to do for Adam?

What did God's Son say to His Father, when He told Him to be a man, and die?

Are we some of Adam's children?

¹ Visits of the Son of God to man, in anticipation of His sacrifice, are often recorded in the Old Testament. His visit to Abraham in Gen. xviii.; to Jacob, Gen. xxxii.; to Moses in the bush; to Joshua, Josh. v.; to Isaiah, Isa. vi. compared with St. John xii. 41.

The Son of God is evidently referred to in the following passage: "He bare them, and carried them all the days of old."—Isa. lxiii. 9.

² "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son."—Gal. iv. 4.

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Did the Son of God die for us?

Where should we have gone when we died, if Jesus had not died for us?

Did Jesus come down into the world as *soon* as Adam had grown wicked?

Did He wait a long while, or a little while?

LESSON XIII

THE VIRGIN MARY

St. Luke i. 26-55.

ADAM had a great many children and grandchildren, and they had more children; at last the world was full of people—more people than you could count.

After Adam and Eve had been dead a long while, and when the world was full of people, God said to His Son, “Now go down into the world.”

But the Son must be a little baby first—everybody is a little baby at first.

So God chose to send His Son to be the baby of a poor woman. This woman’s name was Mary. Mary had no little children. She was a good woman, and loved God.

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One day an angel came to her. When Mary saw the bright angel she was frightened ; but the angel said, " Fear not, Mary, God loves you. He will send you a baby, that shall be the Son of God. You shall call His name Jesus. He will come to save the people from their sins."

Mary was much surprised at what the angel said. She thought she was not good enough to have such a baby as the Lord Jesus.

When the angel was gone back to heaven, Mary sang a sweet song of praise to God for His goodness. Mary said, " My soul praises God, and my spirit is glad because of my Saviour."

Mary called her baby her Saviour, for she knew that He would save her from Satan.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XIII

When did God send His Son down into the world ?

Whose little baby did God's Son choose to be ?

Who told her she should have a little baby ?

What name did the angel say she was to give her baby ?

What did Mary do when the angel had gone back to heaven ?

LESSON XIV

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

St. Luke ii. 1-7.

MARY had a husband called Joseph. He was a good man, and very kind to Mary.

Now before Mary's baby was born, a great king said that everybody must pay him some money. So Mary and Joseph took some money, and left their house, and went a great way to pay the money to the king. At last they came to a town called Bethlehem.

It was night. Where could they sleep? They went to an inn, and said, "Will you let us in? we have come from a great way off."

But the master of the inn said, "I have no room in my inn for you."

What could poor Mary do? Must she sleep

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in the street?—Mary said she would sleep in the stable if the master would let her.

So Mary and Joseph went into the stable. There were cows and asses in the stable.

While Mary was in the stable, God sent her the little baby He had promised her. She knew it was the Son of God, though it looked like other little babies.

She wrapped it in some long clothes, called swaddling clothes; but she had no cradle for it to sleep in, and she could not lay it on the ground, lest the beasts should tread upon it, so she put it in the manger, and she sat by it to take care of it.

How dearly Mary loved this sweet baby!

It had no sin like other babes,¹ but was quite meek and lowly. Yet other babes have cradles and soft pillows, while Jesus lay on the hay in a manger.

¹ "That holy thing which shall be born of thee."—St. Luke i. 35.

"Was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."—Heb. iv. 15.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

When you were a baby perhaps your mother used to say to you as she rocked your little cradle—

“Soft and easy is thy cradle,
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birth-place was a stable,
And His softest bed was hay.”

Dr. Watts's Cradle Hymn.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XIV

- What was the name of Mary's husband?
- Why did Mary and Joseph take a long journey a great way off?
- What is the name of the town they came to?
- Did they sleep in the inn at night?
- Why not?
- Where did they sleep?
- What baby was born while Mary was in the stable?
- Did Mary know it was the Son of God?
- Where did she lay her baby?
- What did she wrap it in?
- Did Jesus look like other babies?
- Was His heart like other babies' hearts?

LESSON XV

THE SHEPHERDS

St. Luke ii. 8-20.

THERE were some fields near Bethlehem. On the night when Jesus was born, some shepherds were sitting watching by their sheep in those fields. Why did they sit up at night?—To keep their sheep from the wolves and lions, who walk about at night. There are no wolves and lions where we live, but near Bethlehem there were a great many wild beasts.

Suddenly these shepherds saw a great light. A beautiful angel came from heaven. The poor shepherds were afraid; but the angel said, "Fear not, I have joyful news to tell you. God has sent His own Son from heaven to save you from hell. He is a baby now, lying in a manger. Go to Bethlehem, and you will find Him."



The angel appears to the shepherds.

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THE SHEPHERDS

The angel had scarcely done speaking, when hundreds and hundreds of bright angels filled the sky, and began singing songs of praise to God.

“The great God hath sent His Son to save men : praise Him for His goodness.”

At last the angels went back to heaven, and the shepherds were left alone.

Did they stay with their sheep ?

No ; they said, “Let us go and see the Son of God.”

They ran to Bethlehem, and went to the stable of the inn. There was the baby lying in the manger ; Mary and Joseph were sitting by. The shepherds said, “This is the Son of God. Angels have spoken to us to-night, and told us where to find Him.”

You can imagine how surprised all the people in Bethlehem were when the shepherds told them about the angels and the Son of God lying in a manger.

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QUESTIONS ON LESSON XV

Who were in the fields near Bethlehem, the night Jesus was born?

Why did the shepherds sit up at night?

What did they see in the sky?

What did the angels tell them?

Who sang songs in the sky after the angels had spoken?

When the angels were gone, where did the shepherds go?

Did the shepherds tell people what they had seen?

LESSON XVI

THE WISE MEN

St. Matt. ii.

A GREAT way from Bethlehem there lived some wise and rich men. God told them that He had sent His Son to be a babe ; but the men did not know where to find Him ; so God put a beautiful star in the sky, and God said to them, “Go where the star moves ; follow the star and you will find Him.”

So the wise men left their houses, and set out on the long journey. But first they said, “Let us bring some presents for the Son of God : for He is a King.”

They gathered together much gold, and precious sweet-smelling stuff to burn. They watched the star as they went. For days and nights they travelled on, always guided by the

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

star, but at last it stopped over a house in Bethlehem. The wise men were so glad. They longed to see the Son of God. They came in and there they saw Mary and her child Jesus. They fell down on their knees and began to praise Him, and to call Him the Son of God and the King.

They took out their beautiful presents and gave them to Him.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XVI

Who came from a great way off to see Jesus?

Who told them that God had sent His Son to be a baby?

How did they find the way to Bethlehem?

What did they bring with them?

Where did the star stop?

What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus?

LESSON XVII

KING HEROD

St. Matt. ii. ; St. Luke ii. 51, 52.

THERE was living at that time a very wicked king called Herod. He lived a little way from Bethlehem. He heard that a babe was born in Bethlehem, and that some people said that the babe was a king.

Now Herod was very angry that there should be any other king besides himself. Herod did not like that even the Son of God should be king. So Herod said, "I will kill this babe that is called a king."

Herod learnt that this baby was in Bethlehem. But there were many babies in Bethlehem, and Herod did not know which was the baby that was called a king.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

Some people knew which it was; but they loved Jesus, and they would not tell Herod. A very wicked thought came into Herod's mind. He said to himself, "I will kill all the babes in Bethlehem, and then I shall be sure to kill this baby whom they call a king."

Do you think God would let Herod kill His Son?—No; God knew what Herod meant to do. God sent one of His bright angels to speak to Joseph when he was asleep.

The angel said, "A wicked king wants to kill Jesus. You must take Mary and the baby a great way off." So Joseph got up quickly; he took his ass, he put Mary on it, and she held the baby. It was dark when they set off. Nobody saw them go.

The next morning some men came with swords. Herod had sent them. They had come to kill all the babies in Bethlehem. They opened every door and said, "Is there a baby here?" Then they snatched it from its mother, and killed it, and the poor mother cried bitterly.

If you had walked down the streets of



The Carpenter's Shop at Nazareth.

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KING HEROD

Bethlehem on that dreadful day you would have heard nothing but women weeping and crying out, "My pretty baby is dead ; I shall never see it again."

Was Jesus killed ?

No : He was gone far away. His Father, God, had sent Him away. Herod could not kill Him, for God would not let Him die so soon.

At last the wicked king Herod died. Then God sent an angel to speak to Joseph again. The angel said, "Joseph, go back to your own country ; Herod is dead, and the baby is safe." So Joseph took the ass, and Mary, and the sweet child Jesus, and they all came back to their own country.

Joseph was a carpenter. Jesus lived with Joseph and Mary, and minded all they said. He was a wise child, and loved to think of God. God His Father loved Him, and everybody loved Him, because He was so meek and kind. The older He grew, the more they loved Him.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XVII

Who wanted to kill Jesus when He was a baby?
Were there many babies in Bethlehem?
Did King Herod know *which* baby was the Son of God?
Whom did Herod desire to be killed?
Did he kill Jesus?
Why not?
Who told Joseph to take Jesus a great way off?
Did Herod know that Jesus was gone away?
Did Herod think that he had killed Jesus?
Whom did Herod send to kill the babies in Bethlehem?
Did Jesus ever come back to His own country?
Who told Joseph to take Jesus back to his country?
Why might Jesus be taken back to His own country?
What was Joseph's trade?
Did the people love Jesus when He was a child?
Why did they love Him?

LESSON XVIII

THE TEMPTATION

St. Matt. iv. 1-11.

AT last Jesus grew to be a man. He knew that He must go from place to place, and teach people about God.

But first, He went into a place by Himself—a wilderness. He had no house to sleep in there, no friend to speak to, no food to eat. In the night it was cold, in the day very hot.

There were no men in this lonely country, but there were lions, wolves, bears.¹ At night they roared and howled, but Jesus trusted in His Father.

He ate nothing for forty days and forty nights: God kept Him alive. When Jesus was alone, then He spoke in His heart to His dear Father.²

¹ “And He was with the wild beasts.”—St. Mark i. 13.

² “Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”
—St. John xvi. 32.

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Jesus went into this lonely place so that He might talk with God His Father before He went out into the world to work among the people.

At last some one came and spoke to Him.

Who was it ?

Not a man, not a bright angel, not God ; it was Satan. He came to tempt Jesus to do wickedly, just as he comes to tempt you and me. Satan knew that Jesus was hungry. He said to him : " Turn these stones into bread ; " but although Jesus could have done so He would not, for God Himself had promised to feed Him.

After that Satan took Jesus to the top of a great building, as high as the steeple of a church.

Satan said to Jesus, " Throw yourself down from this place ; your Father will send His angels to keep You from being hurt, for You know that He has promised to take care of You."

Would Jesus have done right, had He thrown Himself down ?—No ; Jesus knew that His Father would be displeased if He threw Himself down ; and Jesus always did the things that pleased His Father.

THE TEMPTATION

Then Satan took Him to the top of a very high mountain. From this place they could see over all the world. He showed Him the most beautiful things on the earth, lovely palaces and gardens, splendid ships, and great buildings and streets filled with people dressed in beautiful clothes. He said, "Look at these fine things. I will give them all to You. You shall have all the world for Your own : only first You must kneel down and worship me, and call me ' God.' "

But Jesus said, "I will pray to My Father, and not to you."

Jesus loved His Father better than all the things in the world.

Adam and Eve listened to Satan, and disobeyed God ; but Jesus did all His Father had told Him ; Adam was disobedient, Jesus was obedient.

Then Satan went away, and angels came from heaven and fed Jesus.

Satan goes about trying to make children naughty. A lion could only eat your body, but Satan waits to have your soul and body too. Satan hates you. He is your enemy. But God

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is stronger than Satan,¹ and He will always help and keep you if you ask Him. And Jesus knows how Satan tempts you, for He was tempted too, but He never once gave way. You will not forget, will you?—when Satan tries to make you naughty, that Jesus sees you and knows all about it and wants to help you.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XVIII

When Jesus grew to be a man, where did He go by Himself?

Were there any beasts in the wilderness?

How many days was Jesus there?

What did He eat?

Who came to Him at last?

Why did Satan come?

What did Satan ask Jesus to do first?

Why would not Jesus turn the stones into bread?

What did Satan ask Jesus to do when he had taken Him to the top of a high building?

Why would not Jesus throw Himself down?

What did Satan show Jesus from the top of a hill?

What did Satan say Jesus must do, if He would have all these fine things?

Would Jesus do this?

Who fed Jesus after Satan was gone away?

What harm does Satan want to do to children, and to all people?

¹ "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."—1 John iv. 4.

LESSON XIX

THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

St. Mark i. 16-20.

WHEN Jesus was a man, He began to teach people about His Father. Jesus used to preach.

Where did He preach ?

Sometimes He preached to people in a place like a church ; sometimes He preached in the fields ; sometimes He sat on the hill-side and preached ; and sometimes He sat in a ship, and the people stood by the edge of the water to hear Him. Jesus did not always live in the same place : He used to walk about from one place to another.

Did Jesus walk about alone ?—No ; He had twelve friends always with Him. He called them His twelve disciples.

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One was called Peter, and another John, and another James, and another Thomas. But I will not tell you the names of all, lest you should forget them.

Peter was a fisherman. He had a ship, and he used to catch fish in the day and in the night. James and John had another ship, and they too used to catch fish.

One day, Jesus was walking along the seashore and saw Peter and his brother Andrew in their ship, throwing a net into the sea to catch fish. Jesus said to them, "Come with Me." And Peter and Andrew left their nets, and their ship, and went with Jesus.

And Jesus went a little farther, and saw James and John sitting in their ship, mending the holes in their nets, and Jesus said to them, "Come with Me;" and they left their nets, and went with Jesus.

Shall I tell you why Jesus chose to have twelve friends always with Him? What do you think was the reason?



Jesus calls two of His disciples.

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THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

Jesus wished to teach them about God His Father,¹ that they might teach other people about Him.² They liked being with Him, and listening to His words.³ Would you not have liked to have been always with Jesus, to have heard the wonderful things He said, and to have seen the wonderful things He did?

When Jesus was alone with His disciples, He used to talk to them about God⁴ and heaven. They loved Him very much indeed,⁵ and they called Him Master and Lord.⁶ Jesus loved them

¹ Christ said in prayer to His Father, "I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world."—St. John xvii. 6.

² "And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach."—St. Mark iii. 14.

³ "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."—St. John vi. 67, 68.

⁴ "When they were alone, He expounded all things to His disciples."—St. Mark iv. 34.

⁵ "The Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me."—St. John xvi. 27.

⁶ "Ye call Me Master and Lord."—St. John xiii. 13.

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still more than they loved Him,¹ and He called them His friends.²

Jesus used to give them part of all that He had. But Jesus had no home, no house to live in,³ often He did not know where He and His friends would sleep at night, and He had very little money.⁴ Sometimes they were very tired, for they often walked a very long way in the day,⁵ and sometimes they were very hungry and thirsty.⁶ Now and then kind people would ask them to come into their houses, and give them

¹ "As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you."—St. John xv. 9.

² "I have called you friends."—St. John xv. 15.

³ "The Son of man hath not where to lay His head."—St. Luke ix. 58.

⁴ Jesus having had recourse to a miracle to procure money to pay tribute, testifies to His poverty; and His sharing it with Peter ("Give unto them for Me and thee") shows that He shared His supplies with His disciples.—St. Matt. xvii. 24-27.

⁵ "Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well."—St. John iv. 6.

⁶ "His disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn."—St. Matt. xii. 1.

THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

food.¹ But other people laughed at Jesus, and called Him names.²

Were the disciples good men? No, they were just like you and me; but Jesus put His Spirit into them, and made them better.³ The disciples were not altogether good, like Jesus; they often quarrelled with each other,⁴ and sometimes they were unkind to poor people.⁵

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XIX

Where used Jesus to preach?

How many disciples had Jesus?

Did they ever quarrel?

Can you tell me the names of some of them?

¹ A certain woman named Martha received Him into her house."—St. Luke x. 38.

² "There they made Him a supper."—St. John xii. 2.

³ "Say we not well that Thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?"—St. John viii. 48.

⁴ "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."—St. John xv. 3.

⁵ "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest."—St. Luke xxii. 24.

⁶ Witness their conduct to the woman of Canaan.—St. Matt. xv.

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What was Peter doing when Jesus told him to come with Him?

What were James and John doing when Jesus called them?

Why did Jesus choose to have some friends always with Him?

What did they call Jesus?

What did He call them?

Did they love Jesus?

Why did they like being with Him?

Did Jesus give them money or fine things?

Why were the disciples good?

LESSON XX

THE FIRST MIRACLE

St. John ii. 1-11.

I TOLD you that some people used to ask Jesus to come into their houses. I shall now tell you of a man who did ask Jesus. This man gave a feast, and Jesus came to the feast; Mary, Jesus' mother, came; and His friends, the disciples, came. There were a great many more people besides at the feast.

There was some wine for the people to drink; but there was so little, that very soon it was all gone.

Jesus knew that the wine was gone. Could not Jesus give the people more wine?—Yes; for He made the world, and all things in it.

There were some large stone jars in the room. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them quite full.

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Then Jesus said, "Dip in a cup and give it to the master to drink." The servants gave it to him; but Jesus had turned the water into wine.

When the master had tasted it, he said, "What nice wine this is! Where did it come from?"

The servants then told him how Jesus had told them to fill the jars with water. Then all the people at the feast knew that Jesus had turned the water into wine.

This was the first wonder that Jesus did: it was called a miracle.

Why did Jesus do miracles?

To show people that He was the Son of God.

The disciples now felt quite sure that Jesus was the Son of God.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XX

When Jesus was at a feast, what was it that was all drunk up very soon?

How did Jesus make more wine?

What was the first miracle that Jesus did?

LESSON XXI

SEVERAL MIRACLES

St. Luke vii. 11-16.

AFTER Jesus had turned the water into wine, He did a great many wonders. He made blind people see, and sick people well, and dumb people speak, and lame people walk.

When Jesus came to a place all the sick people crowded round Him.

Jesus did not send them away because they worried Him, but He cured them all.¹

This was the way in which He cured one blind man. He just said to him, "See!" and the blind man, who had not seen anything for years, saw quite clearly at that very moment.²

¹ "He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them."—St. Luke iv. 40.

² St. Luke xviii. 42.

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This was the way in which He cured a man who was deaf and dumb. Jesus put His fingers into his ears, and touched his tongue, and looked up to His Father in heaven, and said, "Be opened!" and immediately he could speak plainly.¹

Once Jesus saw a poor sick man lying on a bed, and Jesus said to him, "Would you like to be made well?" The poor man said he wished very much to be made well. Then Jesus said, "Get up, carry your bed, and walk." The man tried to get up, and he found that he could; for Jesus gave him strength.²

One day Jesus was preaching in a place like a church when he saw a poor woman whose back was bent, so that she could not lift up her head. Jesus said, "Woman, I have made you well;" and then Jesus touched her with His hands, and her back grew straight, and she began to praise God.³

Sometimes Jesus made dead people alive again.

¹ St. Mark vii. 32-35.

² St. John v. 5-9.

³ St. Luke xiii. 11-13.

SEVERAL MIRACLES

That was more wonderful than making sick people well.

Once Jesus was walking along the road. A great many people were walking after Him, for people liked to see Him do wonders, and to hear Him talk. They met some men carrying a dead man to put him in the ground.

A poor old woman came after, crying very much. She was the mother of the dead man. He was her only son.

Jesus was very sorry to see her cry. He came up to her and said, "Do not cry."

Jesus made those who were carrying the dead man stand still, and then said, "Get up, young man." And the young man who was dead sat up and began to speak. Then Jesus said to his mother, "Here is your son."¹

All the people were surprised, and said, "This must be the Son of God. He can make dead people alive again."

¹ St. Luke vii. 11.

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QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXI

Why did sick and blind people come to Jesus?

How did He cure one blind man?

How did He cure a deaf and dumb man?

What did He say to a man who was ill in bed?

What did He say to the woman whose back was bent?

What could Jesus do that was more wonderful than making sick people well?

When Jesus was walking in the road, what did He see being carried by some men?

Who was crying very much because the man was dead?

What did Jesus say to the dead man?

What did the man do?

What did the people say when they saw the dead man come to life?

CHAPTER XXII

THE SINNER AND SIMON

St. Luke vii. 36 to end.

WHY did Jesus come into the world?—To save us from our wickedness and from Satan.

Jesus can forgive people their wickedness and make them good. But Jesus will not forgive people who are not sorry. I will tell you of a proud man who was not sorry, and of a poor woman who was sorry.

A rich, proud man asked Jesus to come and dine with him. Why did he ask Jesus? He did not love Him:—he only asked Him that he might hear what He said, and laugh at Him: but Jesus said He would come.

The proud man treated Jesus very unkindly, He gave Him no water to wash His feet, put no sweet ointment upon them, gave Him no kiss.

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In the country where Jesus lived the master of the house always did these things when he invited one whom he loved to his house.

A poor woman, who had been very wicked, saw Jesus go into the rich man's house. She came up behind Jesus, and began to cry because of all the wicked things she had done. She knew Jesus could forgive her, and she loved Jesus.

She had brought with her a box of ointment. She stooped down and her tears fell upon Jesus' feet, and with her tears she washed them: she wiped them with her long hair, and then poured the sweet ointment upon them, and kissed them.

The rich man looked at the woman very crossly; he knew she had been very wicked, and he was angry at seeing Jesus so kind to her.

But Jesus said to the proud man, "This woman has been very wicked; but she is sorry, and I have forgiven her, and she loves Me very much. She loves Me a great deal more than you do. She has been kind to Me, but you have been unkind. You gave Me no water for My feet; but she has washed My feet with her tears.

THE SINNER AND SIMON

You gave Me no kiss ; but she has kissed My feet ever since I came in. You gave Me no ointment, but she has poured very sweet ointment upon My feet."

Then Jesus spoke kindly to the woman, and said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

So Jesus comforted this poor woman ; but the proud man and his friends grew still more angry.

Jesus will forgive your sins if you are sorry, and if you ask Him ;¹ but if you think yourself good, He will not forgive you ; for Jesus cannot bear proud people.²

¹ "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."—1 John i. 9.

² See the parable of the Pharisee and publican.—St. Luke xviii.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXII

How did the rich man behave to Jesus, when he asked Him to dine with him ?

What did the naughty woman do to Jesus ?

Why did she love Jesus so very much ?

Why did Jesus forgive her all her naughtiness ?

Will Jesus forgive you your naughtiness if you are sorry ?

LESSON XXIII

THE STORM AT SEA

St. Luke viii. 22-25.

JESUS often went into a ship with His disciples. Peter had a ship of his own, and John had another ship, and they liked to lend their ships to Jesus.

Once they were all in a ship, when the wind blew very hard, and the waves tossed up and down, and came over the ship. The disciples were afraid they would be drowned.

Jesus had fallen asleep, and was lying on a pillow. The noise of the wind and of the water had not awakened Him.

His disciples ran to Him and cried, "O Master! do You not care for us? will You let us die?"

Then Jesus got up, and said to the wind,
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THE STORM AT SEA

“Wind, be still,” and He said to the water, “Be still.” The wind left off blowing, and the water was smooth and quiet.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Why were you afraid? Why did you not believe that I would take care of you?”

Jesus knew that they were tossed about, and He would have kept them safe, though He was asleep.

The disciples said one to another, “Jesus is the Son of God; even the wind and the water obey Him.”

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXIII

What made the disciples afraid once when they were in a ship?

Was it wrong in them to be afraid?

What did Jesus say to the wind, and to the water?

What did the disciples say when they saw the wind and water obey Jesus?

LESSON XXIV

JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER

St. Luke viii. 41 to the end.

A RICH man came to Jesus, and fell down at His feet, and said, "I have one little girl, and she is very ill; pray come and make her well." And Jesus went with the rich man.

When they were near the house, some servants came out and said, "The little girl is dead; no one can make her well now."

But Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; I can make her well."

Jesus said to the father and mother of the little girl, "Come with Me into the house. Peter, James and John, you may come in, but no one else."

So they went up into the room where the little girl was lying in bed. A great many people were in the room, playing sad music, and singing sad songs, and crying, because the child

JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER

was dead. But Jesus said, "Leave off crying. The girl is only sleeping ; she is not dead."

Jesus said she was asleep, because He meant to make her alive so soon again. But the people laughed at Jesus and said, "She is dead ;" and they would not believe that He could make her alive again.

Jesus said, "Those people must be put out of the room." So He sent them out and shut the door, but He let the father and mother, and Peter and James and John stay in the room. He took the little girl's hand and said, "Arise," and first she sat up, and then she rose up out of bed, and walked about the room. She was twelve years old. Jesus then said, "Bring her something to eat."

The father and mother were very glad, and all the people were much surprised at what had happened.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXIV

Did Jesus ever make a dead child alive again ?

Who was sitting round her bed when Jesus came ?

Why did Jesus say that the girl was asleep ?

What did Jesus do to the people who laughed at Him ?

Whom did Jesus allow to stay in the room ?

How old was the girl ?

LESSON XXV

THE LOAVES AND FISHES

St. Matt. xiv. 13-22.

ONCE Jesus went into the wilderness with His disciples, and a great many people came after Him. Then Jesus preached to all the people and told them about His Father, and how He Himself had come down from heaven to save them from Satan. They listened to Him from morning till night.

When it was getting dark, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Will You not send the people home, for it is late?"

But Jesus knew that the people had had nothing to eat all day, and He did not like to send them home tired and hungry; so He said to His disciples, "Cannot you feed them?"

"No," said they, "we have only five loaves

THE LOAVES AND FISHES

and two small fishes, and see how many people there are."

But Jesus said, "Make them sit down on the grass, and bring the loaves and fishes to Me." So the disciples made them all sit down.

There were a great many people, as many as would fill many churches—five thousand men, and a crowd of women and little children.

How tired the little children must have been ! It was time for them to have their supper and go to bed. Now we shall hear how Jesus fed all these people.

They sat down on the green grass. Jesus took the loaves and fishes. First He lifted up His eyes to His Father, and thanked Him for the food, and then He took a piece of bread and gave it to Peter, and said, "Feed all those people sitting there ;" and He gave another piece to John, and said, "Feed those people ;" and He gave a piece of bread and fish to each of the disciples, and told each to feed some people.

One piece of bread would not be enough for two or three little children ; but Jesus made the

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bread enough for all that great number of people. A piece of bread did not get smaller because a man ate some, but was as big as before. Every one had enough; they had so much that they dropped upon the grass a great many little pieces, and did not trouble to pick them up. But Jesus said to His disciples, "Take some baskets and pick up the crumbs;" and they filled twelve baskets full of little bits of bread. Then Jesus told the people to go home.

What a wonder Jesus had done! Yet you know that He feeds you, my little children, and all the people in the world.

How does He feed you?—He gives you bread.

Of what is bread made?—Of flour.

Of what is flour made?—Of corn.

Who makes corn?—God makes the corn.

Of what does He make it?—Of nothing. God makes things of nothing. Jesus is God, and makes the corn grow;¹ so you see that Jesus feeds you. If He did not make corn grow in the fields, we should die. But He will not forget us.

¹ "By Him all things consist."—Col. i. 17.

THE LOAVES AND FISHES

He even remembers the little birds. They are too silly to plough, or to sow corn, or to reap, or to put corn into barns, yet God does not let them starve.¹ The birds cry to God, and He hears them, and lets them find food.²

Now God loves us much better than He loves the little birds, because we have souls; so He will certainly hear us when we pray to Him.³ Will you not ask God for bread every day, and say, "Give me this my daily bread"?

We ought to thank God for the food we eat. Before we eat breakfast, or dinner, or supper, we should say, "I thank Thee, O Lord, for this nice food."

¹ "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"—St. Matt. vi. 26.

² "Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God," etc.—Job xxxviii. 41.

³ "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth."—Ps. xxxiv. 17. "Which giveth food to the hungry."—Ps. cxlvi. 7.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXV

Did many people come to hear Jesus preach?

Why did not Jesus like to send them home at night?

How many loaves and fishes did Jesus feed them with?

Who gave the people the bread and fish?

Did the people leave any of the bread?

Where were the little pieces of bread put?

Who makes the grass and the corn grow in the fields?

Could your mother give you bread if God did not make the corn grow?

Does God feed any other creatures besides men, women, and children?

Why does God take more care of you than of the birds?

LESSON XXVI

THE KINDNESS OF JESUS

St. Matt. xv. 21-28. St. Mark x. 13-16.

I TOLD you that the disciples were sometimes unkind ; but Jesus was always kind.

Once a poor woman came crying after Jesus, saying, " O Lord, I have a little daughter who is very ill." Jesus did not answer her at first, and the disciples were unkind, and wished her to be sent away. She cried so loud that they said to Jesus, " Do send her away."

The poor woman fell down at Jesus' feet, and said, " Lord, help me ! " And Jesus had pity on the woman, and said, " I will do what you wish."

The poor woman was glad to hear this, and went home and found that her daughter was quite well.

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Another time the disciples were unkind to some little children. Some poor women brought the children to Jesus, but the disciples who were standing round would not let the women come near.

“Go away,” they said; “you must not bring babies here to trouble us.” But Jesus heard them, and was very angry with the disciples.

Jesus would not let the children go away.

He said to the disciples, “Suffer them to come to Me; do not send them away.”

Then He took the children in His arms, and put His hands upon them, and prayed to His Father and blessed them.

O happy little children to be taken into Jesus’ arms!

Jesus loves meek and gentle children. They are Jesus’ lambs.¹ Jesus is their Shepherd, and He will take them to heaven when they die.

¹ “Ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God.”—Ezek. xxxiv. 31.

“He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.”—Isa. xl. 11.



Jesus blesses the little children.

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THE KINDNESS OF JESUS

Young children once to Jesus came,
His blessing to entreat ;
And I may humbly do the same
Before His mercy-seat.

For when their feeble hands were spread,
And bent each infant knee,
“ Forbid them not,” the Saviour said ;
And so He says to me.

If babes so many years ago
His tender pity drew,
He will not surely let me go
Without a blessing too.

Then while, this favour to implore,
My little hands are spread,
Do Thou Thy sacred blessing pour,
Dear Jesus, on my head.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXVI

Were the disciples as kind as Jesus ?

How did they behave to a poor woman who wanted Jesus to help her ?

What did they say to the poor women who brought their children to Jesus ?

What did Jesus say to the disciples when they were sending the children away ?

What did Jesus do to the children when they were come to Him ?

What sort of children does Jesus love ?

Are there any children in heaven ?

LESSON XXVII

THE LORD'S PRAYER

St. Luke xi. 1-5.

WHEN Jesus was in this world, He loved to think of His Father in heaven. He liked to be alone that He might pray to His Father. One night Jesus prayed all night alone upon the top of a high hill.¹

Sometimes Jesus prayed to His Father while His disciples stood near and listened.

Once when Jesus had been praying with them, they said, "Teach us to pray." Then Jesus taught them a little prayer.

It was this: "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done in earth, as it is in

¹ "He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."—St. Luke vi. 12.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

heaven : give us this day our daily bread : and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us : and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil : for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen."

I know, little children, that you say this prayer night and morning. Your mother taught you to say it. But did you know who said it first? It was Jesus the Lord; so it is called "The Lord's Prayer." It is a very beautiful prayer, for Jesus said it.

You should pray to God, sometimes, when you are quite alone. Jesus prayed when He was quite alone. Many little children who are now in heaven have prayed to God. Many little children who are still in the world pray to Him; they are not quite good yet, but God is making them grow better every day, and at last they shall go to heaven,¹ and be quite good, and so happy.

¹ "They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God."—Ps. lxxxiv. 7.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXVII

Why did Jesus choose to be alone sometimes?

Did Jesus ever pray to His Father, when His disciples were with Him?

What did they ask Jesus to teach them?

What prayer did Jesus teach them?

LESSON XXVIII

JESUS FORETELLS HIS DEATH

St. Matt. xvi. 21 to end.

JESUS knew everything that would happen, and He knew that He must soon die.

He used to tell His secrets to His disciples; so He took them in a place by themselves, and said, "I soon shall leave you: the wicked people will take Me, and bind Me with ropes, and beat Me, and laugh at Me, and nail Me on a cross; but remember that I shall soon be alive again."

The disciples could not bear to hear Jesus talk of dying, for they loved Him very much. They all looked very sad, and Peter said, "You

¹ "Jesus, therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him."—St. John xviii. 4.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

shall not die;" but Jesus said, "I must die to save men."

Most of the people who wished to kill Jesus lived in a great town called Jerusalem.

Jesus used to go to Jerusalem very often, and He used to preach there.

Why did some people hate Jesus?—Because He told them of their wickedness.¹

He used to say to them, "You do not love God, who is My Father, but you are proud and vain.² You tell lies. You are unkind to poor people. You pretend to be good, but while you are saying your prayers you are thinking of something else. Your hearts are full of wickedness. You are the children of the devil."³

¹ "The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."—St. John vii. 7.

² "I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another?"—St. John v. 42, 44.

³ "Which devour widows' houses, and for a show make long prayers."—St. Luke xx. 47. "Their heart is far from Me."—St. Matt. xv. 8. "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and

JESUS FORETELLS HIS DEATH

Jesus wished them to turn from their wickedness. It grieved Him to see that they hated His Father, and that they would not turn from their wicked ways.¹

The wicked people were angry with Jesus, and said, "God is not your Father."² But Jesus said, "He is My Father, and I came down from heaven, where³ He lives, and I shall go back to Him some day."⁴

At last the people took up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus did not choose to die yet, so He easily got away from them, and they could not find Him.

iniquity."—St. Matt. xxiii. 28. "But now ye seek to kill Me. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer. He is a liar."—St. John viii. 40, 44.

¹ "Being grieved for the hardness of their hearts."—St. Mark iii. 5. "And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life."—St. John v. 40.

² "The Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He said that God was His Father."—St. John v. 18.

³ "I proceeded forth and came from God. I am from above."—St. John viii. 42, 23.

⁴ "What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before?"—St. John vi. 62.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

Jesus then went away from Jerusalem to live with His disciples in a place a long way off, till it was time for Him to come to Jerusalem again.¹

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXVIII

Did Jesus know that the wicked people would soon kill Him?

To whom did Jesus talk about His dying?

Were they sorry?

Why did the people hate Jesus?

Who is the father of liars?

How did the wicked people try to kill Jesus?

Did Jesus let them kill Him?

Why did He hide Himself in a place a great way off?

¹ "Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him."
"He escaped out of their hand, and went away again beyond Jordan."—St. John x. 31, 39, 40.

LESSON XXIX

LAZARUS

St. John xi. 1-47.

JESUS stayed with His disciples in a place by Himself. The wicked people, who wanted to kill Him, could not find Him; but Jesus' friends knew where He was.

Jesus had more friends besides His disciples.

One of His friends was called Lazarus. Lazarus had two sisters; their names were Martha and Mary. These three all lived together. They all three loved Jesus, and Jesus loved them. Jesus used often to come and see them, and sit in the house, and talk to them. Martha liked to make a fine dinner when Jesus came, but Mary liked to sit and listen to His sweet words.¹

¹ St. Luke x. 38 to end.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

One day Lazarus fell very ill.

Martha and Mary loved their brother Lazarus very much indeed. They knew that Jesus could make Lazarus well, so they sent a man to tell Jesus that Lazarus was ill.

The man went a great way to look for Jesus. Lazarus grew worse and worse. At last he died. His friends wrapped white cloths round his face, and his arms, and his legs, and put him in a great hole in the rocks, and rolled a stone before it.

Martha and Mary waited and longed for Jesus to come.

Four days passed, and at last Jesus came.

When Martha heard that Jesus was on the road, a little way off, she came to Jesus and said, "If You had been here, my brother would not have died; and even now You could make him alive again."

Then Jesus said, "Your brother shall live again."

"Yes," said Martha, "I know he will live at the last day, when all the dead people come to life again."

LAZARUS

Martha was afraid that Jesus would not choose to make Lazarus alive again at once ; but she knew that He was able to do it.

Martha went back to the house, and found Mary still crying, with a great many friends crying round her.

Martha whispered in her ear, and told her that Jesus wanted to speak to her. So Martha and Mary went together and found Jesus waiting for them on the road.

Mary's friends went with her, and they cried : and Mary cried very much indeed : and when she saw Jesus, she fell down at His feet, and said, " Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died."

Jesus was very sorry to see her so unhappy, and to see so many people crying ; he felt very sad indeed, and he sighed very deeply. Jesus does not like to see any one in trouble, He is so kind.

Then Jesus said, " Where have you put Lazarus ? "

Martha and Mary, and their friends said,

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

“Come and see ;” and they showed Him the way.

As Jesus walked along, the tears rolled down His cheeks.

At last they came to the grave.

Then Jesus told them to take away the stone in front of the grave.

They rolled it away.

Then Jesus lifted up His eyes to His Father in heaven, and thanked Him for helping Him to do wonderful things.

A great many people were standing by looking at Jesus, and wondering what He would do.

Poor Martha and Mary were longing to see Lazarus alive again.

Then Jesus spoke out loud and said, “Lazarus, come forth.”

Lazarus heard, though he was dead. The dead hear the voice of Jesus. He got up and walked out of the hole in the rock. His hands were tied with cloths, and his feet wrapped round with cloths, and a cloth was over his face.

LAZARUS

But Jesus said to those standing by, "Undo the cloths."

How pleased Martha and Mary must have been to see the face of Lazarus again! How they must have thanked the Lord Jesus for His kindness!

The people who saw all this were surprised, and said, "Jesus must be the Son of God."

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXIX

Had Lazarus any sisters?

What were their names?

Did Jesus ever come to their house and dine?

When Lazarus was sick, was Jesus with him, or a great way off?

Was Lazarus dead before Jesus came?

Did Martha think that Jesus would make Lazarus alive again?

Why did Jesus sigh and weep?

Where was dead Lazarus put?

What did Jesus say to Lazarus?

What did the people think of Jesus, when they saw Him make Lazarus alive again?

LESSON XXX

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

St. Matt. xxi. 1-11, 14-17.

WHICH was the greatest miracle that Jesus ever did ?

It was making Lazarus alive again : because he had been dead four days.

Many of the wicked people who hated Jesus heard of it ; but they only hated Him the more. They said, we must kill Him soon, or every one will believe that He is the Son of God.

Jesus knew that they wanted to kill Him, and so He went again and hid Himself in a place they did not know of. They looked for Him, but they could not find Him.

But could Jesus always stay in that quiet little place, where He was hid with His disciples ?—No. He came down from heaven to earth to die for

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

us. He only waited till the time came for Him to die. Then He said to His disciples, "We must go up to Jerusalem, and I shall be laughed at, and beaten, and killed; but I shall come out of My grave after three days."

The disciples did not like to hear this; but they went with Jesus wherever He wanted to go.

Jesus walked fast along the road; at last He came near Jerusalem. Then He stopped and said to His disciples, "I shall ride into Jerusalem upon an ass." Jesus had no ass of His own; He always walked from place to place. But Jesus could put it into a man's heart to lend Him one.

He said to two of His disciples, "Go along the road a little way, and you will see an ass and a young ass tied, and a man standing near. Bring the ass and the young one to Me, for I know that the man will let them come."

So the two disciples went: when they had gone a little way they saw an ass tied up and a young one. They began to untie the ass; but a man standing near said, "What are you doing with my ass?"

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They said, "The Lord hath need of them;" and then the man let them go.

I suppose that man loved the Lord Jesus, and liked to lend Him his things.

The two disciples brought the two asses to Jesus. They took off some of their clothes, and put them on the young ass, and Jesus sat upon it.

A great many people came out of Jerusalem to see Jesus, for they had heard of His making Lazarus alive again. The people began to praise Jesus, and to call Him "King." They took off some of their clothes and laid them down upon the road for the ass to tread upon: and they picked branches off the trees that grew near, and laid them, too, on the road.

So Jesus came to the great town of Jerusalem: all the people came into the streets to look at Him, and even the little children began to praise Him, and to call Him "King." The proud men, that hated Jesus, were very angry at hearing all these people singing and praising Jesus. They did not like to hear Jesus praised. They came to



Jesus enters Jerusalem.

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JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

him and said, "Why do You let these children call You King?"

But Jesus liked to hear the children sing His praise, and He would not tell them to be silent.

Jesus loved little children, and these little children loved Jesus.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXX

What did some of the people in Jerusalem wish to do to Jesus?

Did Jesus walk or ride into Jerusalem?

Where did the disciples find an ass?

Why did so many of the people come to see Jesus when He was riding on the ass?

What did the people lay upon the road?

How did the little children make the proud men angry?

LESSON XXXI

THE TEMPLE

St. Luke xix. 47, 48 ; xx. 19, 20 ; xxi. 37, 38.

THERE was a large place in Jerusalem, like a great church, called "the Temple." It was white outside and very beautiful. The doors were open all day, and people used to go in to pray to God. It was God's house ; Jesus used often to be there with His disciples. Poor, blind, and lame people came to Him there, and Jesus cured them all, and talked to them about His Father.

The little children sang His praises in the temple. All day long Jesus taught the people about God, and they listened to what He said, and liked to hear Him.

The wicked and proud men came to the

THE TEMPLE

temple to laugh at Jesus, and to speak rudely to Him ; but He bore all as meekly as a lamb.

At night He left the temple, and went out of the town to a high hill, where He prayed to God alone in the dark.

The wicked men longed to catch Jesus to kill Him. They said to each other, " How can we get Him ? The people will not let us touch Him if they see us, or we would go to the temple to catch Him. If we could find Him alone in the dark, then we would take hold of Him, and take Him to the judge."

This is what the wicked people said to each other, as they sat together.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXI

Where was the Temple ?

What used people to do in it ?

Did Jesus go there often ?

Who used to come there to laugh at Jesus ?

Where did Jesus go at night ?

Why did not the wicked men take Jesus when He was in the Temple ?

Did the wicked men know where Jesus went at night ?

LESSON XXXII

JUDAS

St. John xii. 6. St. Matt. xxvi. 3, 4, 14-16.

JESUS had twelve disciples. Did they all love Him ?

Peter loved Jesus, and John loved Him, and all the rest loved¹ Him, but one ; his name was Judas. He did not love Jesus, but only pretended to love Him. He was like the devil.²

Did Jesus know how wicked Judas was ?

Yes, He saw into his heart ; but the disciples thought Judas was good ;³ for Judas used to kiss

¹ "The Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me."—St. John xvi. 27.

² "Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"—St. John vi. 70.

³ This is evident, from the disciples trusting Judas with the bag, and from their failing to suspect him of treachery to their Lord, when one of their number was accused.

JUDAS

the Lord Jesus, and speak kindly to Him, and talk about God like the rest.

But Judas loved something; he loved money. He wanted to get a great deal of money.

The disciples had a bag, and when they had money, they put it in the bag; and all the disciples put their money in the same bag. But there was very little money in the bag, for they were very poor. Judas used to take care of the bag, and he was always thinking, "How shall I get more money?"

One day, when the proud men were sitting together, Judas came in. Judas said, "You want to find Jesus when He is alone. If you will give me some money I will show you where He goes at night."

The proud people said, "Yes, we will."

Judas said, "How much money will you give me?"

They said, "Thirty pieces of silver."

Then Judas said, "Some night I will bring you to Jesus when He is alone."

The wicked people were very glad to hear this.

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“Now,” thought they, “we shall soon catch Him and kill Him.”

Judas went back to Jesus, and told none of the disciples what he had done. But Jesus knew what he had been doing; for Jesus could read all his thoughts, and knew all that Judas did both in the day and in the night. Yet Jesus did not tell Judas that He knew his wicked plans.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXII

Did *all* Jesus' disciples love Him?

Did Judas *say* that he did not love Jesus?

Did the other disciples know that Judas did not love Jesus?

Did Jesus know it?

What did Judas love better than any other thing?

What did Judas promise the wicked people he would do, if they would give him money?

How much money did they promise to give him?

Did Jesus know that Judas meant to show the wicked people where He was at night?

LESSON XXXIII

THE LAST SUPPER.—PART I

St. Luke xxii. 7-14. St. John xiii. 1-17.

JESUS said to His disciples, "I am going soon to be killed, but before I die I shall eat a supper with you in Jerusalem."

Then Jesus said to Peter and John, "Go, and get the supper ready;" but they said, "Where shall we get it ready?" For Jesus had no house in Jerusalem: but He knew how to find a room.

So Jesus said to Peter and John, "Go into Jerusalem, and you will meet a man carrying a jug; follow him, he will go into a house. The master of the house will lend Me a room. Tell him that I am going to die, and that I want to eat a supper with My disciples."

Then Peter and John went into Jerusalem.

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Whom did they meet ?

A man carrying a jug.

They followed him. He went into a house. Peter and John went in after him, and they said to the master of the house, "Jesus wants a room to eat supper in with His disciples, before He dies."

Then the master took them up-stairs, and showed them a large room, with a table in it, and seats all round the table, and a jug, and a basin to wash their feet in, and a cup and dishes.

Then Peter and John got some bread and wine and other things, and made the supper ready; and they went back and told Jesus (who was a little way in the country) that supper was ready. So Jesus and all His disciples came to the house in the evening; they went up-stairs and they all sat down.

Jesus loved John better than all the rest, and John sat next to Jesus.

After they had been a little while at supper, Jesus got up and took a towel, and tied it

THE LAST SUPPER

round His waist, and He took a jug and poured water into a basin, and began to wash His disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel round His waist.

But when He came to Peter, Peter said, "You shall never wash my feet."

Peter thought it was too kind of Jesus to wash his feet, as if He were a servant ; but Jesus was not proud, but loved to be kind to His disciples.

Then Jesus said to Peter, "If I do not wash you, you cannot be Mine ; but I have made you clean already." Jesus had made Peter's heart clean.

Then Peter was glad that Jesus should wash his feet.

All the disciples had clean hearts, except Judas, and his heart was full of wickedness : Satan was in it. Yet Jesus washed Judas' feet. He was kind even to wicked Judas, who hated Him.

When Jesus had washed all the disciples' feet, He sat down again and began to talk of them.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

He said, "Do you know what I have done to you? I have washed your feet, though I am your Lord and Master. I wish to teach you to be as kind to each other as I have been to you."

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXIII

Had Jesus any house in Jerusalem?

How did He get a room to eat supper in with His disciples, before He died?

Whom did He send to find a room?

How did Peter and John find out which house they were to go to?

What things were in the room?

Who sat next to Jesus at supper?

How many people were at the supper?

Why did Jesus pour water into a basin?

Why did not Peter like Jesus to wash his feet?

Had Jesus made His disciples' hearts clean?

Was Judas' heart clean?

Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?

What commandment did Jesus give to His disciples?

LESSON XXXIV

THE LAST SUPPER.—PART II

St. John xiii. 21-30.

YOU know the dreadful thing that Judas meant to do. Jesus knew that he would bring the wicked people to take Him and kill Him. Jesus had been very kind to Judas, and Jesus was sorry that he was so wicked.

As Jesus was sitting at supper, and all the twelve disciples sitting round, He said, "One of you shall give Me to the wicked men to be killed ; one of you, My disciples."

All the disciples were very sorry ; and Peter said, "Is it I ?" and John said, "Is it I ?" and each of them said, "Is it I ?" but Jesus did not tell them which one it was.

Now John was leaning his head on Jesus'

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bosom, and Peter whispered to John, and said, "Do ask the Lord which of us it is that will show the wicked people where He is?"

So John whispered and said, "Which is it?"

And Jesus said, "The one that dips the bread in the sop with Me."

For there was a dish of sauce on the table, and Jesus dipped His bread in it, and as He dipped it, one of the disciples put his hand in the dish too. Which was it?

Judas: he dipped his bread in the dish with Jesus. So John knew which it was that was so wicked.

Then Jesus said to Judas, "Go and do what you mean to do."

And Judas got up and went out of the room.

Where did he go?

He went to the wicked people, to bring them to Jesus in the dark. But the disciples thought he was going to buy something at a shop, or to give money to the poor.

THE LAST SUPPER

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXIV

What did Jesus say at supper, that one of His disciples would do?

Who asked Jesus to tell him which it was?

Who dipped his hand into the dish with Jesus?

Why did Judas go out of the room?

What did the disciples think he was going to do?

LESSON XXXV

THE LAST SUPPER.—PART III

St. Matt. xxvi. 26–36. St. John xiv. 1–4. St. John xviii. 1–3.

AFTER supper Jesus took some bread and broke it in little bits, and gave a piece to each of His disciples, and He said, “This is My Body ; I am going to die ; eat this and think of Me.”

Then Jesus poured some wine into a cup, and told them all to drink out of it. He said, “This is My blood ; I shall soon bleed and die ; drink this and think of Me.”

Jesus said, “I shall not eat supper with you again before I die. I am going to My Father ; I must leave you, but I shall come back again.”

Then they all sang a hymn.

Afterwards Jesus got up from the table and went down-stairs into the street, and the dis-

THE LAST SUPPER

ciples followed Him. Jesus talked to them as they went along. He said, "I am going to die and you will all leave Me."

But Peter said, "I will not leave You, I will go to prison with You, I will die with You; but I will never leave You."

Jesus said to him, "Yes you will, Peter; you will say that you do not know Me; you will say that you are not My friend. This night, Peter, you will say so before the cock crows." (For cocks crow in the morning, when it is light.)

Jesus talked sweetly to His disciples. He said, "Do not be sorry because I am going away. I shall go to My Father, and I shall soon come back to you. When I am in heaven I shall not forget you, but I shall get ready a place in heaven for you. Only you must love one another, and I will send My Spirit into your hearts."

At last Jesus came to a garden. He had often been to that garden with His disciples, and Judas knew the place.

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

Where was Judas now ?

He was with the wicked proud men.

You will soon hear how he came to the garden, and how he brought the servants of the wicked men with him. For these wicked men were rich and proud. They would not go and catch Jesus themselves, but they would send their servants.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXV

What did Jesus break into pieces, and give to His disciples ?

What did He give them to drink ?

Where did Jesus go after supper ?

What did He tell His disciples as He walked along the road ?

What did Peter say he would do, if Jesus was killed or taken to prison ?

What did Jesus tell Peter that he would say ?

Where would Jesus go after He was killed ?

Would Jesus forget His disciples when He was in heaven ?

What did Jesus say He would send into their hearts ?

Where did Jesus take His disciples ?

LESSON XXXVI

THE GARDEN

St. Matt. xxvi. 30-57. St. John xviii. 1-12.

WHEN Jesus came to the garden He told His disciples to wait for Him till He came back, except three that He took with Him.

Who were they?

Peter, James, and John. He took them further on in the garden, and then said to them, "I feel very sad indeed. I am going to pray. Do you stay here. Do not go to sleep, but pray while I am praying."

Then Jesus went a little way off by Himself, and fell upon the ground and began to pray. He said, "O Father, save Me from death! but do what Thou wilt, not what I will."¹

¹ "Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death."—Heb. v. 7.

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He prayed very earnestly, and fell on the ground. Then He got up and went back to Peter and James and John, but He found them asleep. He woke them, and told them to pray.

He went back and prayed again to His Father, saying, "Father, save Me from death." Then He came back to His disciples, but they had fallen asleep again.

Then Jesus prayed again, and His Father sent an angel from heaven to comfort Him. I do not know what the angel said, but I know the angel loved Him, and could speak sweet words to Him, and tell Him how His Father loved Him. The angel did not stay long; he soon went back to God.

After that Jesus came again to His disciples, and found them still asleep. But Jesus woke them, and told them to get up, "for Judas," He said, "is near."

While Jesus was saying this, a great many people were seen walking in the garden. These were the servants of the proud men in Jerusalem. They had swords, and sticks, and lanterns

THE GARDEN

in their hands. And Judas went before them to show them where Jesus was. But Judas came up slyly to Jesus and gave Him a kiss, pretending to love Him.

Jesus knew what Judas was doing, and He said, "Friend, why do you come here? and why do you kiss Me?"

Jesus did not run away, but He went up to the wicked men, and said, "Whom are you looking for?"

They said, "For Jesus."

He said, "I am Jesus."

When He said that, God made all the wicked people fall upon the ground. Then, if He had wished, Jesus could have run away, but He chose to stay that He might die for sinners.

The wicked people soon got up—God let them get up—and Jesus said to them, "You may take Me, but you must let My disciples go away."

It was kind of Jesus to think of His friends. They were frightened, and glad to get away; they did not wish to stay to die with Jesus.

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But Peter took a sword and cut off one of the wicked men's ears. Peter wished to fight; but Jesus said, "Put up your sword; do not fight for Me. I could have thousands of angels to fight for Me if I wished it; but I choose to die, because My Father has told Me to die." Then Jesus touched the man's ear, and made it well again. Then Peter and all the rest of the disciples ran away, and left Jesus quite alone with the wicked men. They took ropes and tied His hands and feet and they led Him away into Jerusalem, and He went along meekly as a lamb.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXVI

When Jesus was in the garden, did He take *all* His disciples with Him to another part of the garden?

How many did He take with Him?

What did Jesus tell them to do, while He was praying?

What did Jesus pray to His Father about?

Was He very unhappy?

Did Peter, and James, and John pray, while Jesus was praying?

How many times did Jesus come back to Peter, and James, and John?

Who came from heaven to comfort Him?

THE GARDEN

Who came into the garden at last?
Why did Judas kiss Jesus?
Did Jesus know why Judas kissed Him?
What kind name did Jesus call Judas?
Did Jesus run away from the wicked men?
Who made the wicked people fall down upon the
ground?
Did they get up again soon?
Did the disciples run away?
What did Peter cut off with his sword?
Did Jesus wish Peter to fight for Him?
What was it Jesus did to the man's ear?
Where did the wicked people take Jesus?
What was Jesus like when He went so meekly with
them?

LESSON XXXVII

PETER'S DENIAL

St. Matt. xxvi. 57 to end.

THE wicked proud men who hated Jesus had sat up all night. They had sent their servants to fetch Jesus. They were in a fine house, seated on seats round the room talking together, and longing for Jesus to be brought before them.

They said to one another, "We will have Him killed when He comes; we will take Him to the judge."

At last Jesus came in with the wicked servants. The proud men were glad to see Him. They made Him stand up in the midst of the large room. Then they spoke roughly. "Are you the Son of God?" they said.

PETER'S DENIAL

“ Yes,” said Jesus, “ I am, and one day you will see Me coming in the clouds with the angels ; then you will know that I am the Son of God.”

Then the wicked men were angry.

“ Do you hear what He says ? ” they cried out. “ He calls Himself the Son of God ; He must be taken to the judge.”

Jesus stood meekly all this while, and hardly spoke a word.

What has become of the disciples ?

They had run away.

Had Peter run away ?

Peter said he would die with Jesus ; but he ran away too.

At last Peter thought, “ I will go and look for Jesus ; I should like to see what the wicked men are doing to Him.”

So Peter came to Jerusalem, and into the fine house. He came into the hall first, where the wicked servants were sitting round a fire. A door was open, and through the door Peter could see Jesus. There He was, standing before the wicked men. Peter hoped that nobody would know that

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he was one of Jesus' disciples, lest he should be killed. But as Peter was sitting by the fire, warming himself, a maid said to him, "You are one of Jesus' disciples."

Then Peter was frightened and said, "No, I am not; I do not know the Man you speak of."

Then Peter got up, and went outside the door; but another maid said to him, "I am sure you are one of the disciples of Jesus."

"No," said Peter, "I am not." So Peter went back again to the fire, and began talking with the servants.

But some of them remembered having seen Peter in the garden, and they came to Peter and said, "We are certain that you are one of the disciples." "I saw you in the garden," said one.

Then Peter began to swear, and to say that he was not.

While Peter was speaking so wickedly, he heard a cock crow.

Then he remembered what Jesus had said, and he looked at Jesus, and Jesus turned round His face and looked at Peter. It was such a look!



Peter denies his Master.

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PETER'S DENIAL

Jesus did not speak, but His look seemed to say, "Is this Peter, My friend, who said he would die with Me? Is this his love for Me? Does he say he does not know Me?"

Peter felt very sorry; he felt as if his heart would break, and he went out of the house and began to cry very much indeed. For Peter did really love Jesus, only Satan had tempted him to be so wicked as to say he did not know Him.

If Peter had prayed in the garden instead of going to sleep, he would have behaved better. But Christ had often prayed for Peter, that Satan might not get his soul at last.¹

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXVII

Had the proud men gone to the garden *themselves*, or had they sent their servants?

What had they been doing all night?

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, where did He stand?

Did they ask Him if He were the Son of God?

Did He say that He was?

¹ "Satan hath desired to have you," etc., "but I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not."—St. Luke xxii. 31, 32.

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What did the wicked proud men say must be done to Jesus?

Where was Peter all this time?

Could Peter see Jesus?

Did Peter wish people to know that he was one of Jesus' disciples?

Why not?

Did any one ask Peter who he was?

What did Peter say?

How many times did people ask Peter who he was?

What did Peter hear that made him feel how naughty he had been?

What was it Peter did after Jesus had looked at him?

Did Peter really love Jesus?

Who had often prayed for Peter?

Did Satan have his soul at last?

LESSON XXXVIII

PONTIUS PILATE

St. John xviii. 22 to end. St. Matt. xxvi. 67, 68.

St. John xix. 1-16.

ALL night long Jesus stood in the great room ; He heard all Peter said, and that must have made Him very sad. The wicked people were like lions and tigers, and Jesus like a lamb. They looked at Him as if they hated Him.¹

Once, when He spoke, a servant struck His face, but He bore this meekly.

The judge was not up yet, for it was night ; so the wicked people were forced to wait till the morning.

The servants came round Jesus, and put a cloth over His face and beat Him, and pushed Him, and spit upon Him, and laughed at Him.

¹ “ They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and roaring lion.”—Ps. xxii. 13. “ They gnashed upon me with their teeth.”—Ps. xxxv. 16.

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Where was Judas all this while ?

The wicked people had given him the money, thirty pieces of silver : but Judas could not be happy.

“ Ah ! ” thought he, “ I have killed my good Master ; what a wicked man I am ! ”

Judas felt that he could not bear to keep the money, because he had done such a wicked thing to get it. So he brought it back to the wicked men, and threw it down on the floor before them. Then he went into a field, and tied a rope round his throat, and hanged himself to a tree till he died. It was very wicked of Judas to hang himself, instead of praying to God to forgive him.

When the morning came, the wicked people said, “ Now we will bring Jesus to the judge.”

So they went out of their fine house, and took Him with them to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor and judge.

The judge did not know Jesus. The judge said, “ What has He done ? ”

The wicked people said, “ He calls Himself a king.”

PONTIUS PILATE

Then Pilate said to Jesus, "Are You a king?" and Jesus said, "Yes, I am." But Pilate thought that He looked very good, and he did not like to punish Him.

Then the wicked men made a great noise and said, "You must crucify Him."

"No," said Pilate, "I will beat Him, and that will be enough." So Pilate gave Jesus to some soldiers, who took Him into a house, and beat Him with knotted ropes (this way of beating is called scourging) till the blood ran down His back. Then the cruel soldiers laughed at Him, because He said He was a king. They took off His own clothes, and put some fine clothes on Him, such as kings wear, purple and red.

They then said, "We must put a crown on His head." So they took prickly thorns, sharp like pins, and twisted them together, and made a crown and put it on His head.

They said, "He must have a sceptre" (for kings hold something, called a sceptre, in their hands), so they put a reed in His hand for a sceptre; then they took it from Him and beat

THE NEW PEEP OF DAY

Him on the head ; and they knelt down to Him laughing, and said, “ O king ! O king ! ”

Pilate then brought Jesus into the street, where the wicked people were, and a very great crowd, and he showed Jesus to them, and said, “ Look at your king.”

Pilate hoped they would be sorry to see Him so ill-used, His back torn and bleeding, and with blood upon His forehead where the crown of thorns had pricked Him, but the wicked people were cruel like tigers.

“ No,” said they, “ crucify Him, crucify Him ! ” All the people cried out, “ Crucify Him ; ” though He had always been so kind to them.

“ Will you crucify your king ? ” said Pilate.

There was a very great noise in the street, for the people were all shouting at once. “ He shall not be our king,” the people said.

Then Pilate thought he would please the wicked people, so he said, “ Take Him and crucify Him.” Then the people were glad. But first the soldiers took off the fine clothes, and put His own clothes on Him again.

PONTIUS PILATE

How wicked it was of Pilate to let Him be crucified ! Pilate thought Jesus was good, yet he let Him be killed to please the people.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXVIII

Did Jesus stand a long time before the wicked people ?

How did one of the servants behave to Him ?

When did the wicked men take Him to the judge ?

What did the servants put over His face ?

Was Judas happy when he got the thirty pieces of silver ?

What did he do with them ?

How did Judas kill himself ?

Where was the judge sitting ?

What was the judge's name ?

Did the judge wish to hurt Jesus ?

What did the wicked people say that Jesus had called Himself ?

Was He a king ?

What is scourging ?

Why did the soldiers laugh at Him ?

What clothes did they put on Him ?

What did they put on His head ?

What did they put in His hand ?

What is a sceptre ?

Why did Pilate tell the wicked people to look at Jesus ?

Did the people make a great noise ?

Why did they cry out very loud ?

What did Pilate at last say should be done to Jesus ?

Why did Pilate allow Jesus to be crucified ?

LESSON XXXIX

THE CROSS.—PART I

St. Luke xxiii. 26-34.

THE wicked people were very glad when Pilate said Jesus was to be crucified. They made a cross of two great pieces of wood, and made Jesus carry it. They took Him out of Jerusalem into the country. The wicked people came with Him.

Jesus was so weak that He could hardly walk, and the cross was so heavy that He could not carry it. He would have dropped down on the way, if a man had not helped Him to carry the cross.

There were a few people who were sorry for the Lord Jesus.

Some women, who loved Him very much, came crying after Him. Jesus heard them



Jesus bearing His Cross.

THE CROSS

crying, and He turned round and spoke very kindly to them.

He said, "Do not cry for me ; cry when you think how these wicked people will be punished for all they are doing."

At last Jesus came to the top of a high hill. Then the soldiers made Jesus lie upon His cross, and they put nails in His hands, and nails in His feet. So they nailed Him to the cross. Then the soldiers made a hole in the ground, and stuck the cross in it.

They had taken off Jesus' clothes ; and when He was on the cross, the soldiers tore the clothes in pieces, and each took a piece. But his coat was so beautiful, they said, "We will not tear it, because there is no seam in it ;" and one of the soldiers took it for his own. So the wicked people took everything away from Jesus.

Was Jesus very angry with them ?

No, He was meek as a lamb. He prayed to His Father while He was upon the cross ; He could not lift up His hands, but He could speak to God. He prayed for these wicked people, and

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said, "Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do."

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXIX

Who carried Jesus' cross ?

Could Jesus carry it quite by Himself ?

Who came after Jesus crying, because He was going to die ?

What did Jesus say to these kind women ?

What did the wicked men do to Jesus when He came to the top of the hill ?

Who took Jesus' clothes ?

Did they tear them all ?

Whom did Jesus ask His Father to forgive ?

Should we forgive people who are unkind to us ?

LESSON XL

THE CROSS.—PART II

St. Luke xxiii. 35-43.

PONTIUS PILATE wrote these words on the top of Jesus' cross : " 'This is the King of the Jews.' "

Who were the Jews ?

The people who lived in Jerusalem were called Jews.

All the wicked people laughed when they read these words ; they shook their heads, and pouted their lips at Jesus, and said, " If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross. "

Could Jesus have come down ?

Yes, for He could do everything ; but He chose to stay to die for sinners, to suffer and die for you and me.

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The wicked people said, "If God loved Him, He would not leave Him to die on the cross." But His Father let Him die to save us.

There was a cross on each side of Jesus, and a thief nailed upon each cross. One of these thieves laughed at Jesus : he said, "Why do You not save us, if you are the Son of God ?"

The other thief was sorry for his sins, and he loved Jesus.

The thief who was sorry said to the other thief, "We have been wicked, we deserve to be crucified ; but Jesus is quite good." Then he spoke to Jesus and said, "Remember me and save me." He wanted Jesus to save him from hell. And Jesus said, "You shall come to heaven with Me to-day." So Christ heard the poor thief's prayer : for Jesus died that He might save all who believed that He was the Son of God.

If you go to heaven, you will see that poor thief.

THE CROSS

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XL

- What did Pontius Pilate write upon the cross?
- Did the wicked people come to see Jesus upon the cross?
- What did they say to Jesus?
- Why did not Jesus come down from the cross?
- How many people were crucified with Jesus?
- Did both the thieves go to heaven?
- What did one of the thieves ask Jesus to do?
- Did he ask Jesus to save him from dying on the cross?

LESSON XLI

THE CROSS.—PART III

St. John xix. 32-37. St. Matt. xxvii. 45-54.

JESUS' mother, Mary, stood near the cross. She came to see her Son die. She was very sorry; she felt her heart full of pain at the sight.¹

She loved her dear, good Son, who had been kind to her ever since He was a baby, and had never done one thing wrong, and she knew He was the Son of God. Jesus was sorry to see His mother's grief.

John had come to the cross, and he stood near the Virgin Mary. Jesus looked at John, and said, "Let My mother be your mother," and He

¹ "A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also."—St. Luke ii. 35.

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looked at His mother and said, "Let John be your son." So John took Mary to be his mother, and made her live with him. Jesus loved His mother, and thought of her when He was dying.

Jesus was full of pain, and it was very hot. He said, "I thirst!" and the soldiers took a sponge and dipped it in vinegar, and put it on a stick, and gave it to Jesus.

Jesus just tasted the vinegar, and said, "It is finished!" and then He died. His spirit went to His Father, but His body hung upon the cross.

It was three o'clock in the afternoon when Jesus died. He had been nailed to the cross all the day. But before Jesus died, God had made it very dark, to show He was angry with the wicked people. And God had made the earth shake, and the people were frightened; and when Jesus was dead, some of them said, "This must have been the Son of God."

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QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLI

Where was Jesus' mother Mary, when He was on the cross?

Who stood near the Virgin Mary?

Who took care of her after Jesus was crucified?

What did the soldiers give Jesus to drink?

What did Jesus say just before He died?

What o'clock was it when Jesus died?

What frightened the people just before He died?

LESSON XLII

THE SOLDIERS

St. John xix. 32-37.

AT last the soldiers came to see if Jesus and the two thieves were dead, that they might bury them before night. The soldiers looked at one thief, and they saw he was not dead, so they broke his legs, and that killed him. Then they looked at the other thief, and they saw he was not dead, so they broke his legs. Then they looked at Jesus, and they saw He was dead, so they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers took a long stick, with a sharp point at the end, called a spear, and put it in His side; and out of His side blood and water came flowing upon the ground. John was standing near, and he saw the blood poured out. Do you remember how Jesus at supper, the night before, had poured

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wine into a cup, and said, "This is My blood, which is shed for sinners" ?

Now His blood was poured out.

The spear made a hole in Jesus' side. There was a hole in His side, and a hole in each hand, and a hole in each foot ; and His forehead was pricked with thorns, and His eyes had shed many tears. All this he suffered for us, that God might forgive us our sins.¹

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLII

How did the soldiers kill the thieves ?

Why did they kill them so soon ?

Why did not the soldiers break the legs of Jesus ?

What did they put into the side of Jesus ?

What is a spear ?

What came out of His side ?

What had Jesus poured out once at supper, and said, "This is My blood" ?

Why did Jesus shed His blood on the cross ?

¹ " In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.—Eph. i. 7.

LESSON XLIII

THE GRAVE

St. John xix. 38 to the end. St. Luke xxiii. 55, 56.
St. Matt. xxvii. 60.

THERE was one rich man who loved Jesus ; his name was Joseph (not Mary's husband, another Joseph) ; he had a garden, and in the garden he had made a grave ; perhaps he meant to be buried there himself when he came to die.

But now Joseph thought, " I should like to put the Lord Jesus in my grave." It was a very nice grave, and no one had ever been put there yet.

So Joseph went to Pontius Pilate and said, " I want the dead body of Jesus ; may I take it down from the cross, and keep it myself ? "

And Pilate said, " Yes, you may have it."

Then Joseph was glad. He brought some nice white, clean linen. What do you think that was for ?—To wrap Jesus in ; and he brought some

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spices (sweet-smelling things that grow out of the ground), and he brought some men with him, and they took the nails out of Jesus' hands and feet, and took His body down from the cross. Then Joseph wrapped a cloth round His head, and another cloth round His waist, and he put sweet spices on Him ; and then some men carried Him along to Joseph's garden.

In the garden there was a high place, called a rock, and a hole in the rock, like a hole in a wall ; and they walked into this large, dark hole, and they laid Jesus down quite alone. Now He was at rest, He felt no pain, no sorrow ; the wicked people were not near ; and there lay the Lord in His quiet grave. The men took a very large stone and stopped up the hole, so that nobody could come in. No beast, no bird, could touch the Lord Jesus. There were trees and flowers near Him in the sweet garden, and there were angels there watching over Him, though no one could see them.

Where were the poor women who loved Jesus ?

They had been looking at Him on the cross.

THE GRAVE

How they must have cried when they saw Him bleed, and heard Him cry out to God!

The poor women had seen the men take Him down from the cross. They had followed the men into the garden; they had seen Him put so carefully in His grave.

They said to each other, "Let us get more spices and make sweet ointment to put on the Lord Jesus."

Joseph had put some spices, but they wanted to put more. So they went home and made nice ointment.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLIII

Who put Jesus in his own grave?

Where was the grave?

Whom did Joseph ask to let him have Jesus' body?

What did Joseph wrap it in?

What did he put round Jesus' head and waist?

What was put before the grave?

Did any one see where Jesus was laid?

What did the women make when they went home?

LESSON XLIV

THE RESURRECTION

St. Mark xvi. 1-6. St. Luke xxiv. 3-10.
St. Matt. xxviii. 9, 10.

ONE morning very early, when Jesus had only been dead two days, the poor women came into the garden. It was not quite light yet; it was very early in the morning.

As the women walked along with their ointment, they said to each other, "How shall we get into the grave? the men put a large stone before it; the stone is so big we cannot roll it away."

The women did not know what to do. At last they came to the grave, but the stone was rolled away. The women were quite surprised. Then they were afraid some wicked people had rolled it away, and stolen the body of Jesus.

This made them very sad; they looked into the grave, and saw that Jesus was not there.

THE RESURRECTION

Soon they saw two beautiful angels, standing by them. Their faces were bright like the sun, their clothes whiter than snow.

The women trembled when they saw the angels ; but the angels spoke sweetly and kindly to them, saying, " Do not be afraid, we know that you are looking for Jesus. He is not here now ; He is alive. Do not you remember how He said He would come to life again, after the wicked men had crucified Him ?

" Come," said the angels, " and look at the place where Jesus lay. Run quickly, and tell His disciples that Jesus is alive, and that they shall see Him very soon."

The women were very glad indeed ; they ran as quickly as they could to tell the disciples. But as they were running, whom do you think they saw ?—Jesus Himself. He did not look as He once had looked ; no tears were on His cheeks ; they were all wiped away.¹ He was not weak and faint as when He carried His cross ; He never

¹ " Thou hast made him exceeding glad with Thy countenance."—Ps. xxi. 6.

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would be in pain any more ; nor could He ever die again.¹

How pleased the women were to see Him ! They knelt down on the ground, and held His feet, that He might not go away, and they called Him their Lord and their God. Yet still they felt a little afraid ; but Jesus told them not to be afraid. “ Go,” He said, “ and tell my brothers that I shall soon see them again.”

Whom did Jesus call His brothers ?

His disciples. He had forgiven them for having run away when the wicked men took Him.

The poor women ran, as Jesus had told them, to the disciples, and said, “ We have seen angels ; we have seen the Lord Jesus. He is walking about, and you will see Him soon.” But the disciples would not believe the women.

¹ “ Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more.”
—Rom. vi. 9.

THE RESURRECTION

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLIV

When did the women come to the grave?

Why did they come?

Who rolled away the large stone?

How did the angels look?

Were the women pleased when they saw them?

What did the angels tell the women?

To whom did the women run to tell what they had seen?

Whom did the women see as they went along?

What did the women do when they saw Jesus?

Had Jesus forgiven His disciples for having left Him alone?

Did the disciples believe that the women had seen Jesus?

LESSON XLV

MARY MAGDALENE

· St. John xx. 1-19.

I HAVE told you of two Marys ; Mary, Jesus' mother, and another Mary, the sister of Lazarus. But there was another still, called Mary Magdalene. She came very early to the grave, before the other women came. She looked in the grave, but saw no angels ; so she came running back, and told Peter and John that Jesus was not in His grave. "I am afraid," said Mary Magdalene, "that some wicked people have taken Him away, and that we shall not be able to find Him."

So Peter and John began to run as fast as they could, but John ran the fastest, and he came first to the grave. He stooped down, and peeped in, and he saw the clothes lying in the grave.

MARY MAGDALENE

Soon after Peter came, and he went down into the grave, and he saw the clothes neatly folded, and the cloth that was round Jesus' head lying in a place by itself. Then John went in too; and John thought of what Jesus had said about being alive again.

"It is all true," thought John; "He is alive, and has left His grave."

Then Peter and John came out of the grave, and went to their own house; but they saw no angels, nor did they see Jesus.

Where was Mary Magdalene all this time?

She was standing, crying, outside the grave; she was quite alone; for Peter and John were gone home.

At last she stooped down and looked into the grave, and she saw a beautiful sight. Two angels, one sitting where Jesus' head had been, and one where His feet had been.

The angels said to Mary, "Why do you cry?" but still she went on crying, and said, "Some wicked people have taken away the Lord Jesus, and I cannot find Him."

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When she had said this, she heard a man behind her, saying, "Why do you cry?"

She did not know who it was that spoke; she thought perhaps it was the gardener. "If you have carried Him off," said she, "tell me where you have put Him, and I will take Him away."

Then she heard the voice again, saying, "Mary!" She knew that voice, and turning round, looked, and saw that it was Jesus. How glad she was to see her Lord and Master, whom she loved! But Jesus could not stay with her. He told her to go and tell His dear disciples that He was alive. "I am soon going up to My Father in heaven; but I shall see My disciples first."

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples. They were all crying; but they would not believe what Mary said.

Mary was glad that she had gone to look for Jesus. She was the first of all the people who saw Jesus after He was alive again.¹

¹ "He appeared first to Mary Magdalene."—St. Mark xvi. 9.

MARY MAGDALENE

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLV

Who came very early to the grave of Jesus?

What two disciples ran to the grave of Jesus?

Which came there first?

Which of them went into the grave the first?

What did Peter and John see in the grave?

Did John believe that Jesus was alive again?

Did Peter and John see Jesus or angels?

Who stood alone, crying, by the grave?

What did she see when she looked in?

Why did Mary Magdalene cry?

Who was the man that spoke to her kindly?

Was he the gardener?

Did Jesus stay with Mary?

Who was the first person that saw Jesus after He was alive again?

LESSON XLVI

THE TWO FRIENDS GOING TO EMMAUS

St. Luke xxiv. 1-43.

IT was early in the morning that the women went to look for Jesus. In the evening two good men who had loved Jesus were taking a walk together in the country. As they walked they talked about Jesus. They had not seen Him since He was alive again. They did not know He was alive. They talked about His dying on the cross. It made them very sad to speak about it. As they walked a man came and spoke to them ; they thought he was a stranger.

He said, " Why do you cry ? I see you are talking of something very sad."

" Yes," said these good men, " we are talking of something sad. Did you ever hear of Jesus ? of the wonderful things He did, of how He cured

TWO FRIENDS GOING TO EMMAUS

the blind, and dumb, and sick ; and of how He taught people about God ? All the people loved Him. But at last He was crucified. We thought He was the Son of God ; but now we are afraid He was not, for He is dead, and we are afraid that we shall never see Him again.”

The kind stranger was sorry to see these good men so troubled. He began to talk to them, and said, “ Why should not Jesus be the Son of God ? Have you not read in the Bible how God said His Son should be brought like a lamb to the slaughter ? He has died as was said, and He must come to life again and go back to His Father.”

This kind stranger said a great deal more. He knew all the verses in the Bible, and told these men a great many things they did not know. They liked to listen to the stranger ; they did not feel so sad while he was talking.

At last these men came to their own house : it was in the country. The stranger seemed as if he was going on ; but the two good men said to him, “ Pray stay at our house ; it is getting

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dark. Come and sup with us, and sleep here ; pray, pray come in."

The stranger said, " Yes, I will."

The men went into a room where there was supper. They all three sat down together round the table. The stranger took some bread and broke it, and began to pray to God ; and then the two men found out who the stranger was.

" It is the Lord ! " they cried ; and so it was. They looked towards Him, but they could see Him no more. He had not opened the door, yet He was gone.

Then the men thought of all that Jesus had said. " How sweetly He talked to us ! " they said. " Did not we feel our hearts quite warm while He was speaking about the Bible, and telling us the meaning ? "

Do you think these men went to bed that night ?

Oh no ! they could not sleep. " Let us go," said they, " and tell the disciples about our seeing Jesus." So they left the supper, and they set out in the night. They walked quickly, and soon came to Jerusalem.

TWO FRIENDS GOING TO EMMAUS

The disciples were all shut up in a room together, and they had locked the doors to prevent the wicked people getting in ; but they let these good men come in.

“ We have seen Jesus,” said these good men ; “ He has walked with us, and talked with us ; but we did not know Him till He sat down with us at supper, and broke some bread, and gave thanks to His Father.” And the disciples said, “ Some women have seen Him too, and Peter has seen Him.”

But while they were talking about Jesus, they looked and saw Jesus standing in the middle of the room. He had not opened the door, but there He stood.

How do you think the disciples felt ? They were frightened ; they could not believe that it was indeed Jesus Himself.

Jesus spoke kindly to them. “ Do not be afraid,” He said ; “ it is your own Master that you see. “ Look,” He said, “ at this hand. See the hole that the nail made, and look at this ; ” and then He showed the other. “ Look, too, at

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my feet ; see these holes ;” and then He showed them His side, and the mark the spear had made when the blood and water came out. “Now do you believe,” said Jesus, “that it is I Myself?”

Then the disciples saw that it was their own dear Master. They were glad, very glad, to see Him ; they had been crying ever since they had lost Him. They saw that He had forgiven them for having run away. He said nothing to them about it ; he had even forgiven Peter. He knew that Peter loved Him, and that he was very sorry.

Then Jesus said, “I will eat to show you that I am alive. What have you to eat?” So the disciples brought Him a piece of fish and some honey, and Jesus sat down and ate.

Then afterwards He talked to them, and told them why He had died, and that He was going back to His Father to pray for them.

That was a pleasant night for the poor disciples. It was not like that sad night when Jesus was so sorrowful in the garden. His sorrows were over, and He never would feel pain any more.

TWO FRIENDS GOING TO EMMAUS

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLVI

- On what day did Jesus come out of His grave?
- What were two good men doing that evening?
- What were they talking about?
- Who came and walked with them?
- Did they know that Jesus was with them?
- What did Jesus talk to them about?
- Did Jesus come into the house of the two good men?
- When did they find out who He was?
- Did Jesus stay in the room?
- Did the good men stay in their own house that night?
- Where did they go?
- Who came into the room without opening the door?
- What did Jesus show to all His disciples?
- Were the disciples sure that Jesus was the same Jesus?
- What did Jesus eat?
- Why did Jesus eat?

LESSON XLVII

THOMAS

St. John xx. 24 to end.

YOU have heard how the disciples saw Jesus in the evening. Now one of the disciples was not there when Jesus came. His name was Thomas. I do not know why he was not there.

When the disciples saw Thomas next, they said to him, "We have seen Jesus. On Sunday night we saw Him. He came into the room as we were sitting together, and He spoke to us. We are sure it was Jesus Himself, because He showed us the marks of the nails in His hands and feet, and the hole in His side where the spear went in."

But Thomas would not believe the disciples. He said, "I do not think you saw Jesus Himself. He died upon the cross. I never will believe,

THOMAS

except I put my fingers into the marks of the nails, and put my hand into the hole in His side."

It was very wrong of Thomas to speak in this way. He should have remembered that Jesus had promised to be alive again.

Jesus heard Thomas speak, though Thomas could not see Him. But Jesus was always with the disciples, and heard all they said, because He is God.

Next Sunday evening the disciples were in a room together. Thomas was there too. The doors were locked once more to keep the wicked people out; but the disciples knew that Jesus could come in. And He did come. They saw Him standing in the middle of the room. He spoke kindly to them, and said, "Peace be unto you!"

Then He spoke to Thomas. "Come," He said to Thomas; "here are My hands; put your finger into the marks, and here is the hole in My side; put your hand in it."

Then Thomas knew that Jesus had heard him

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when he told the other disciples he would not believe that Jesus was alive again. He felt ashamed and sorry. He saw it was Jesus Himself, and he cried out, " My Lord, my God ! "

Then Jesus said to Thomas, " Now you have seen, you believe. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

Jesus quite forgave Thomas for what he had said, because Thomas really loved Jesus.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLVII

Which of the disciples would not believe that Jesus was alive again ?

What did Thomas say he must do, before he would believe ?

When did Thomas see Jesus again ?

What did Jesus say to him when He saw him ?

Did Thomas believe *then* that Jesus was alive ?

LESSON XLVIII

THE DINNER

St. John xxi. 1-19.

JESUS told His disciples to go into the country, and said, "I will come and see you again." So the disciples went away from Jerusalem to the place where they had once lived by the water-side. They had some ships on the water, and they used to catch fish when they were in the ships.

One night Peter said to the disciples, "I am going out to fish;" and the disciples said, "We will go with you." So they got into a ship, and all night long they tried to catch fish, but they could not catch any. They were tired and hungry.

At last, when it was morning, they looked towards the shore, and saw a man standing near the water. They did not know who it was.

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The man called out to them and said, "Children, have you anything to eat?"

The poor disciples said, "No;" for they had caught no fish all night.

The man said, "Let down your net on the right side of the ship, and you shall find some fish."

They did as the man told them, and they caught such a number of fishes in the net, that they could hardly lift it out of the water.

Now John found out who the man was; he said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

Peter was very glad, and jumped into the water, and swam quickly to Jesus. The other disciples came soon after in their little ship with their net full of fish.

Jesus knew that they were tired and hungry. By the water-side there was a fire of coals, and some fish on the fire, and some bread. How kind of Jesus to prepare food for the poor hungry disciples!

Jesus said to them, "Bring the fish that you have caught." So Peter went and took up the

THE DINNER

net, and found it full of great fishes : one hundred and fifty-three.

This was a great miracle that Jesus had done. Then Jesus said to them, " Come and dine." So they all sat down to dine together. Then Jesus took the bread and the fish, and gave some to each.

Now the disciples were quite sure that it was Jesus who was feeding them. This was the way they used to dine together before Jesus had died, and now He was alive again, they dined together once more ; but they knew He was not going to stay long with them.

When they had all finished eating, Jesus said to Peter, " Do you love Me ? "

Peter said, " Yes, Lord ; You know that I love You. "

Then Jesus said, " Feed My lambs " (that is, " Teach other people to love Me ; teach little children to love Me, for little children are Christ's lambs. Go and tell people about My dying for them ").

Peter did love Jesus, and Jesus knew He did.

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Yet Jesus said again, "Do you love Me?" Peter said again, "Lord, You know I love You." Then Jesus said, "Feed My sheep."

Jesus asked Peter once more the same thing, "Do you love Me?"

Peter was afraid Jesus did not believe him, and this made him very sorry. He said, "Lord, You know everything. You know that I love You."

Jesus said again, "Feed My sheep."

If Peter loved Jesus, he would do what Jesus bid him, and go and tell people about Him and His love.

Do you love Jesus, my little children? What would you answer, if Jesus said to you, "Do you love Me?" Could you say to Jesus, "Look into my heart, and You will see that I love You?" If you really do love Him, you will hate lies and passions, and you will try to be always kind and gentle, and to speak the truth.

Why did Jesus ask Peter so often whether he loved Him? Why did He ask him three times over?

Peter had said he did not know Jesus three

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times over. So Jesus wanted to hear him say he loved Him three times over.

Then Jesus told Peter what would happen to him when he was old. Jesus said to Peter, "When you were young you walked about where you liked ; but when you are old, some men will take you, and stretch out your hands, and carry you where you do not like to go."

Jesus meant that Peter would be crucified ; men would stretch out his hands on a cross, and nail him as they had done Jesus. Wicked people would crucify Peter because he loved Jesus ; but Peter would never say again that he did not know Jesus.

Peter was not proud now as he used to be. And Peter would pray to God to keep him from sin.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLVIII

Did the disciples stay in Jerusalem, or did they go into the country ?

Why did they go in boats one night ?

Could they catch any fish ?

Who spoke to them in the morning ?

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What did He tell them to do?

Which of the disciples knew first that it was Jesus speaking to them?

Which of them jumped into the water and swam to Jesus?

What did the disciples find ready for them when they were come to Jesus?

Had they caught any fish in the net?

What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?

What did Jesus desire Peter to do if he really loved Him?

How can children show that they really love Jesus?

What did Jesus tell Peter that wicked men would do to him one day?

LESSON XLIX

THE ASCENSION

St. Matt. xxviii. 16 to end. St. Luke xxiv. 46 to end.
Acts i. 4-15.

JESUS used to come and see His disciples after He was made alive again ; but He did not live always with them, as He once had done.

He told them He was soon going up to His Father. “ When I am gone, you must tell people about Me. You must tell the wicked people who crucified Me that I will forgive them if they are sorry. I will send down My Holy Spirit from heaven, and you shall do miracles as I have done. Do not be afraid of wicked people ; I will always be with you, though you do not see Me. Some day I shall come back again.”

The disciples asked Jesus when He would come back ; but Jesus would not tell them when.

One day Jesus and His disciples walked to-

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gether to the top of a hill. Jesus began to pray with His disciples, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was doing this, a cloud came from heaven, and took Jesus quite away, back to His Father. The disciples still looked up, and saw the cloud go higher and higher till they could see it no more. But still they went on looking. Then they heard some one speaking to them; they looked to see who it was, and they saw two angels standing by them. The angels were dressed in white shining clothes. They said, "Why do you look so long at the sky? Jesus will come back to earth some day as you have seen Him go up into heaven." So the disciples went back to Jerusalem.

Perhaps you think they were very unhappy now Jesus was gone? No, they were not. They knew He was gone to get a place in heaven ready for them, and that some day they would see Him again and would live with Him for ever, and this made them glad.

THE ASCENSION

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLIX

Did Jesus live always with His disciples after He was alive again, or did He only come to see them sometimes?

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do when He was gone back to His Father?

Did He tell them when He would come back?

What was Jesus doing just before He went away in a cloud?

Who spoke to the disciples as they were looking up at the cloud?

Were the disciples unhappy when Jesus was gone?

Why were they not unhappy?

LESSON L

PETER IN PRISON

Acts xii. 1-23.

WHAT had Jesus desired His disciples to do when He went back to His Father ?

To tell the wicked people at Jerusalem that Christ would forgive them if they were sorry for their sins.

The disciples said to the wicked people, “ You have crucified the Son of God. He is alive, and is gone up to sit on His Father’s throne ; but He will forgive you.”

Some of the wicked people were sorry for what they had done to Jesus, and begged God to forgive them ; and some of the wicked people were not sorry, but tried to kill the disciples.

A wicked king cut off the head of James with a sword, and then shut up Peter in prison, meaning to kill him soon.

PETER IN PRISON

Did you ever see a prison ?

It is a dark place with great doors, and bars, and walls all around.

Some soldiers took Peter, and put chains on his hands, and chains on his feet. They locked the door of the prison, and sat at the door that no one might get in.

Peter's friends were very unhappy because he was in prison ; but they could not take him out. Yet there was one thing they could do ; they could pray to God to save Peter, and so they did. Peter's friends sat up at night, and prayed to God.

The wicked king said, "To-morrow I shall have Peter killed." But God would not let Peter be killed. So God told one of His beautiful angels to go and let Peter out of the prison. The angel could go into the prison without opening the doors.

It was night when the angel came. Peter was asleep. On each side of him there was a soldier, and on each of his hands there was a chain. You would not like to sleep in a prison with soldiers

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near you, and chains on your hands ; but Peter knew that God loved him, and that he was safe.

So the angel came. It was dark in the prison. Could Peter see the angel ?

Yes, for the angel was bright like the sun, and made the prison light.

The angel touched Peter on the side, and lifted him up, and the chains fell off Peter's hands.

He told Peter to put on his clothes. And Peter did so. Then said the angel, " Follow me." So the angel walked first and Peter followed him. They went through the prison ; but the soldiers did not see Peter go out, for God made them sleep. Peter was quite surprised ; he thought he was dreaming, and that he did not see a real angel.

At last they came to a great iron gate. It was fast locked ; but the angel took no key to open it. It opened of itself, and let Peter and the angel go through.

Now they were in the street. Still the angel went on, and Peter came after him ; but they did not speak a word.

PETER IN PRISON

All the people were asleep, and did not know that a bright angel was walking in the street. The angel only walked down one street, and then he went back to heaven, and left Peter standing alone in the street, in the dark.

Peter stood some time thinking to himself, "What a wonderful thing has happened ! I was shut up in prison ; but God has sent His angel to let me out. The king meant to kill me to-morrow ; but now I shall not be killed."

I know that Peter thanked God for His kindness. Peter did not stay all night in the street. He went to the house of a good woman he knew, and knocked at the door.

Were the people in the house asleep ?

No, they were all awake, though it was night.

Why were they not in bed ?

This good woman had heard how the king would kill Peter to-morrow ; so she had sent for her friends to come and pray with her for Peter, and while they were praying they heard a knock. It was a strange thing to hear a knock in the night ; but they never guessed who it was.

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The maid went to the door, but she was afraid to open it, lest it should be some of the wicked people come to kill the good woman and her friends. She stopped at the door without opening it, to hear who it was. When she heard Peter speak, how pleased she was, for she knew his voice ! She did not say, " Are you Peter ? " She was sure it was Peter. She was so much surprised that she forgot to open the door, but ran back to her mistress, and the rest of the disciples, and said, " Peter is standing before the gate ; " but they said, " No, it cannot be Peter ; he is shut up in prison. "

The maid said, " It is Peter ; I am sure it is. "

While they were talking, Peter was standing outside, and he went on knocking, because nobody opened the door. So they all ran together, and opened the door, and when they saw Peter, they were very surprised.

" How did you get out of prison ? " they said.

Then Peter made a sign with his hand to make them all quiet, that he might tell them how he got out of prison.

PETER IN PRISON

“God sent an angel,” said Peter, “who brought me out of the prison. Go and tell all my friends what has happened, for I must go away.” So Peter went and hid himself in a place where the wicked king could not find him.

What do you think the soldiers said when they could not find Peter in the morning?

They were much frightened; they saw his chains, but not Peter. They found the gates locked; they could not think how Peter had got out of prison.

In the morning the king sent for Peter. This was the day when Peter was to be killed. All the wicked people in Jerusalem were expecting to see him. The king's servants said, “Where is Peter? bring him out.”

The soldiers answered, “We cannot tell where Peter is; he is gone.”

The servants went and told the king that Peter was not in prison. The king was very angry; he said, “Bring the soldiers to me. They must have fallen asleep.”

When the soldiers came, they could not tell

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the king how Peter had got away. For God had made them sleep when the angel fetched Peter. The king was in a great rage, and said, "The soldiers must be killed."

What a wicked king this was! He loved to do wickedness. He was very proud, and hated God and God's people. He fell into passions, and only cared to please himself. At last God sent an angel to kill him, and worms ate up his flesh, until he died.

God sends angels to punish the wicked, and to help people who love Him as Peter did.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON L

What did the disciples tell the wicked people in Jerusalem?

Were any of the wicked people, who had killed Jesus, sorry for their wickedness?

What happened to James at last?

Where was Peter shut up?

What used Peter's friends to do for him when he was in prison?

Who came to Peter one night?

How did Peter get loose from his chains?

How did he get through the great doors?

PETER IN PRISON

Where did the angel leave Peter standing alone?

Where did Peter go then?

What were the people in the house doing when Peter knocked?

Why was the maid afraid to open the door?

How did she know at last that it was Peter knocking?

Why did she not open the door?

What did Peter tell all his friends, when he had made them quiet?

Where did Peter go then?

Why were the soldiers frightened in the morning?

Why did the wicked king send for Peter?

What did the king desire to be done to the soldiers?

How did God punish this wicked king at last?

LESSON LI

JOHN

Rev. i. 9-19 ; iv. 1-5 ; xxii.

ALMOST all the twelve disciples were killed by wicked men at last. When Peter was old, some wicked men crucified him, because he loved Jesus. Now he is in heaven with Jesus ; clothed in a white robe ; and all his tears wiped away. His dear Lord Jesus is always near him, and this makes him happy.

John lived till he was very, very old indeed. A wicked king caught him, and put him in a place all by himself ; not in a prison, but in a country where there were no houses, and no people, and water all round, so that John could not get away.

Was John unhappy when he was all alone ?

No ; God was with him, and John loved to think of the Father, and of His Son Jesus.

JOHN

It was Sunday, and John was thinking of God, when he heard a voice behind him, like the noise of a trumpet, very loud indeed. He turned round to see who it was; and whom do you think he saw?

It was the Lord Jesus who appeared to him, all-glorious and shining. When John saw Him he could not speak or stand; he was afraid, and fell down on the ground as if he were dead. But Jesus touched him with His hand, and said, "Fear not; I am He that was dead, but now I am alive, and behold, I am alive for evermore. I am going to show you many things, and you must write down what you see in a book." Then Jesus took John up into heaven, and an angel showed him most wonderful and beautiful things.

He saw a throne on which God sat. There was a rainbow round the throne. There were a great many seats, and men sitting on them, clothed in white, with crowns of gold on their heads. The men took off their crowns, and threw them down before the throne, and praised Jesus, the Lamb of God.

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John saw a great many angels, more than he could count, standing round the throne, singing praises to the Lamb.

But of all the things John saw in heaven, there was nothing so glorious as God Himself.

In heaven there is no sun, nor moon ; no candle, nor lamp. Yet it is always light, because God shines more brightly than the sun. The music of harps and sweet singing is always to be heard ; for the angels are always singing the praises of God.

John wondered at the things he saw and heard ; and he fell down at the feet of the angel who had shown them to him.

But the angel said, " You must not worship me ; I am only a servant of God ; you must worship God."

Then the angel went on speaking, and said, " Jesus will come down from heaven to judge the world. He will open the gates of heaven to let those people in who mind God's Word ; but those who tell lies, and do wicked things, shall be shut out."

JOHN

All people who love Jesus wish Him to come again in the clouds.

Do you wish to see Jesus, my little children ?

Then you may answer, " Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

I hope that when you die, your spirit will go to Jesus, and that when Jesus comes again He will bring you with Him.

John wrote down in a book the things he had seen in heaven. All that John wrote is in the Bible. At last John died, and his soul went to God. He is with Jesus now in heaven.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON LI

Where was John shut up alone ?

Who came to see John when he was alone ?

What did Jesus show him ?

Whom did he see sitting round God's throne ?

How many angels did he see ?

What makes heaven always light ?

When John fell down at the angel's feet, what did the angel say ?

What will Jesus do when He comes again ?

Who wrote down about heaven and the angels in a book ?

LESSON LII

THE JUDGMENT DAY

1 Thess. iv. 15-17. Rev. xx. 11 to end.

YOU know that Jesus will come again in the clouds.

Little children, do you know when He will come? Shall I tell you when Jesus will come? You would like to know, but I cannot tell you when; I do not know. The angels do not know what day it will be. No one knows but God.¹ An angel will blow a great trumpet, and Jesus will say to the people who are dead, "Come out of your graves."

The bodies of all the dead people will come out of the graves.² Those who love Christ will

¹ "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only."—St. Matt. xxiv. 36.

² "The hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth."—St. John v. 28.

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be like the angels, and will fly up into the air. If you are alive when Jesus comes, you will go up into the air to meet Him.

He will come in the clouds, shining brighter than the sun, and all the angels with Him.¹ He will sit upon a white throne, and He will wear a crown upon His head, and everybody will stand round His throne. He will open some books, in which are written down all the wicked things that people have done. God has seen everything you have done, He knows everything you have even thought. He can see in the dark as well as in the light. He will read everything out of His books before the angels that stand around. Yet those who love Jesus God will forgive, because Christ died upon the cross to save them from their sins.

Whom will He forgive?

Those who love Jesus with all their hearts.² He has written down their names in another

¹ "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him."—St. Matt. xxv. 31.

² "The kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him."—Jas. ii. 5.

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book, called "The Book of Life." He will forgive their sins, and wipe away their tears.

Will Jesus write down your name in His book?

He will if you truly love Him and try to serve Him.

Ask Him to give you His Holy Spirit. Then you will love Jesus, and hate to do wickedly. And when the last day comes, He will say to you, "Come and live with Me for ever in this beautiful heaven I have made ready for you, where everything is lovely, where no one ever cries, and where all are happy all the day long."

QUESTIONS ON LESSON LII

When will the last day come?

What great noise will there be at the last day?

What will Jesus say to the dead people?

What will be done to the bodies of people who love Jesus?

Whose sins will Jesus forgive?



THE END

